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Ten Red Cross workers killed in Zaire

GENEVA (AFP) — Ten Red Cross Aid workers were killed in fighting at the Zairean town of Kenge, 200 kilometres east of Kinshasa, the International Committee of the Red Cross announced (ICRC) Wednesday. The ICRC said in Geneva it was "shocked" by the deaths. "This tragedy happened as the volunteers were helping people wounded in fighting in the town," the ICRC said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

King receives call from Weizman

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a phone call from Israeli President Ezer Weizman during which the Israeli president briefed the King on his talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in order to overcome all obstacles hindering the progress of the peace talks on the Israeli-Palestinian track. King Hussein stressed the importance of contacting each other for building confidence measures. The King underlined Jordan's support for a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East region.

Volume 22 Number 65

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 8-9, 1997, MUHARRAM 1-2, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

King: We hope Jordan will get self-sufficiency in near future

21 per cent of Jordanians live under poverty line; JD431 million estimated expense to implement national strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday underlined the need for continued coordination among the concerned authorities to raise the standard of living of the Jordanian people.

Addressing a meeting held at the Ministry of Planning which convened to review plans by a ministerial committee entrusted with supervising the process of designing and implementing the Social Security Net and carrying out reforms, the King said: "We hope that Jordan will attain self-sufficiency in the near future," stressing the need for continued determination and resolve to help achieve the Kingdom's aspirations.

Thanking the ministerial committee for its efforts in working out a strategy to deal with poverty and other social ills, the King said: "I would like to thank you all for what you have accomplished towards boosting social production, combating poverty, and implementing social security plans and I am pleased to refer in particular to the efforts of my brother Crown Prince Hassan who has for many years dedicated his efforts towards social and economic affairs and towards raising the standards of living of the people and aiming at attaining self-sufficiency, enabling the

country to enjoy a promising future."

"Many thanks to the ministerial team and to the prime minister in particular who is one of the pioneer builders and also all those who have assumed positions of responsibility at the different stages of preparing the national strategy, as well as the national task force who prepared the studies for the plan, wishing you all continued success," said the King.

"I am confident that you will be bearing and reading ... and you must have already read about the views of some people — and this is not a novelty — who criticised all that has occurred in these studies because they aim at distributing the march and preventing us from going ahead with fulfilling our duties for our people," the King said at the meeting which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and members of the ministerial committee.

Referring to the criticism, the King said: "This is a phenomenon which we have experienced before in Jordan but this does not represent the reality of the people of this country and its aspirations. Our duty is to meet the needs of the Jordanian people in every respect."



"We have heard talks about settlement of refugees in the last few days and before this meeting and I cannot understand the nature of this negative attitude directed against our people. It is well-known that the camps as well as the unorganised urban areas are not a source of shame to us, but rather they are a cause of environmental pollution," said the King.

"For how long should we listen to people who are not affiliated to this country except by name as they are affiliated to others abroad? But this is not important because we have been used to it and with God's will, we are going ahead to achieve our objectives," added the King.

Expressing appreciation to those who helped the Kingdom, the King said: "Jordan is grateful to those who honour their commitments to the Kingdom, enabling it to confront the challenges and the difficulties."

The King pledged continued support for the ministerial committee and continued contacts with the world at large, stressing that the situation in Jordan is not bad or as bad as it is in some developing nations.

"We are determined to work to achieve our objectives and fulfil our aspirations," the King concluded. Dr. Majali pledged his

Tarawneh says no real water crisis between Jordan, Israel

Sharon claims Jordan got one-third of the 150 million cubic metres of water

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh said Wednesday that "no real crisis exists in Jordanian-Israeli relations as has been portrayed by the Israeli media, but the two countries hold different views about some provisions in the Jordan-Israel peace treaty concerning water."

Briefing the press after a meeting he held with the lower house of parliament's Arab and international affairs committee, Dr. Tarawneh said that "the coming meetings between Jordanian and Israeli officials are bound to overcome these differences so that we can secure our rights as have been provided for in the peace treaty."

"The most prominent points of difference with the Israeli side revolves about an article in the treaty that provides for the two sides to search for additional sources of water to make available 50 million cubic metres of water (for Jordan's needs) within one

year after the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the peace treaty," noted the minister.

But he said, "A year has passed during which many events occurred including the assassination of the former Israeli prime minister and the Israeli elections which delayed the implementation of that particular article."

"There are certain projects included in the treaty and which have not yet been implemented so far like the Aqaba airport, the development of the Jordan Rift Valley, Israeli-Jordanian trade which require feasibility studies and financing," noted the foreign minister.

He said "there is no break down in relations with Israel because the two sides are linked by a peace treaty which entails international commitments for both parties and we are keen on seeing these commitments respected according to that treaty."

The committee's chairman Fawzi Toumeih said after the meeting that the

deputies listened to a briefing by the foreign minister and the Minister of Water and Irrigation, Munther Haddadin, about the latest developments and the water issue between the two countries.

He expressed belief that the water question will be solved and Jordan will receive its share of the water as stipulated by the treaty.

Dr. Toumeih blamed Israel for delaying the implementation of the treaty's provisions saying that Israel bears the responsibility for any failure in the peace process.

The Jerusalem Post reported on Wednesday that the crisis erupted after a secret Sunday meeting in Tel Aviv between Muher Haddadin, the head of the Jordanian delegation on water and Israeli National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. The newspaper reported that Mr. Sharon told Israeli radio the disagreement in interpretation surfaced when he told

(Continued on page 7)

West Bank settlers set up sheds after army destroys illegal houses

YIZHAR, West Bank (AFP) — Defiant Jewish settlers set up three sheds outside this settlement early Wednesday, a day after Israeli troops demolished three houses built at the site in an illegal attempt to expand the community.

"We have built three sheds on the hill. We plan to remain there and continue our expansion plans," said David Dudkevich, a spokesman for the Yizhar residents.

More than 20 settlers were arrested and several

slightly injured on Tuesday when they tried unsuccessfully to prevent police from demolishing the three houses being built on a hilltop about 800 metres outside Yizhar.

The police operation drew a chorus of protest from far right-wing members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, which last year lifted a freeze on new settlement building but has since disappointed settlers by authorising fewer new construction projects in the

FBI seeks top U.S. official suspect of spying for Israel

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. counter-espionage agents are hunting for a senior U.S. official suspected of spying for Israel, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launched an investigation in January after U.S. agents intercepted a conversation between an Israeli intelligence official in Washington and his superior in Tel Aviv referring to the high-level Israeli mole as "Mega," the paper reported citing sources close to the probe.

In the monitored conversation, the Israeli intelligence official told his superior that Israel's ambassador in Washington, Elihu Ben Elissar, had asked him to use "Mega" to obtain a classified state department document linked to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

The document was a secret letter of assurances from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher sent Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Jan. 16 after successful U.S.-brokered negotiations on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank city of Hebron.

Right-wing elements in Israel feared the letter promised U.S. action to guarantee that Israel would withdraw its troops from large segments of the occupied West Bank following the Hebron agreement.

"The ambassador wants

me to go to Mega to get a copy of this letter," the intelligence official said in a transcript of the conversation intercepted by the National Security Agency and obtained by the Washington Post.

The Israeli official's superior in Tel Aviv turned down the request, saying: "This is not something we use Mega for."

Mr. Ben Elissar told Israel Radio Wednesday that the newspaper report was "ridiculous and baseless."

David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Netanyahu's top policy adviser, also denied the report, saying, "This is a totally invented affair which has no basis in reality, it will pop like a soap bubble."

But he added that the allegations "will hurt Israel because no one ever remembers the denials."

White House spokesman Michael McCurry, contacted in Mexico City where U.S. President Bill Clinton is visiting, declined to comment.

One U.S. official with knowledge of the investigation said that if it turned out a senior U.S. official was passing sensitive information on to the Israelis, it could prove more serious than the espionage case involving former navy analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard, who was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in 1986 for spying for Israel.

(Continued on page 7)

Netanyahu, Arafat to meet American envoy separately

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel played down expectations of "dramatic developments" in its deadlocked peace negotiations with the Palestinians from the arrival of Tel Aviv on Wednesday of U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross.

A Palestinian National Authority (PNA) official said Wednesday that Mr. Ross's meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was delayed to Thursday.

The American envoy's visit comes on the heels of Israeli President Ezer Weizman and Mr. Arafat's meeting on Tuesday at the Israel-Gaza border which did not budge the sides from their demands for ending seven weeks of crisis.

"There seems to be movement whenever Dennis Ross is around and, therefore, it would be wrong to expect dramatic developments but it would be at least as wrong to be pessimistic," said David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's media adviser.

Mr. Ross, in his second shuttle mission within a month, is scheduled to meet first Mr. Netanyahu and later Mr. Arafat on Wednesday night to try to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace moves.

The Weizman-Arafat

meeting was only the second high-level Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) contact since talks deadlocked in March when Israel began a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Mr. Weizman, whose post is largely ceremonial, said after the meeting that Mr. Arafat had agreed to resume security coordination between the sides.

"This point was agreed upon. I hope that it will begin operating within a few days," Mr. Weizman told reporters.

Mr. Arafat told reporters on Wednesday the Palestinians agreed to meet Israeli security people only with the Americans and first would meet the American officials separately.

"It was not an agreement on bilateral security coordination. It is trilateral. It is with coordination with the American administration. Today our security men will meet the American security people for this purpose," he said.

Mr. Arafat said he told Mr. Weizman he wanted Mr. Netanyahu to read Israel-PLO peace agreements carefully and implement them accurately.

Asked about Palestinian demands for a halt to Jewish settlement activities on Arab land occupied in 1967,

Mr. Bar-Ilan told Reuters: "We obviously are not going to stop building in the settlements any more than the Palestinians are going to stop building in their towns."

Jewish settlers rebuilt on Wednesday a shack demolished a day earlier by Israeli police near the west bank settlement of Yizhar.

"We took a hammer and nails and said, okay, we have to start rebuilding what was destroyed and that is what we did," said a settler, identified as Yossi, to Israeli army radio.

Police forcibly removed on Tuesday dozens of settlers from a shack outside the Yizhar settlement and destroyed it along with two other wooden structures they said were built illegally.

Several children, who had been in the shack, were lightly injured by shards of glass and 18 settlers were arrested.

Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war. More than 130,000 Israeli have since settled amid some two million Palestinians in the occupied areas, not counting Arab east Jerusalem.

Mr. Ross's last trip in April was overshadowed by a domestic Israeli crisis and failed to achieve any breakthrough.

On the Occasion of
AL-HIJRA YEAR

ARAB BANK

is honoured to convey to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

and to the
Arab and Islamic Nations

Its most cordial wishes and greetings

Palestine International Bank to open Saturday

DUBAI (AFP) — The Palestine International Bank (PIB) said it will open its headquarters Saturday in the West Bank town of Ramallah, according to a press release issued here by its United Arab Emirates-based chairman, PIB "will offer an extensive range of services in Palestine" and its network will be expanded to Gaza by the last quarter of 1997, and to Nablus, Hebron, Bethlehem and Tul Karem by 1999, said its chairman, Issam Abu Issa. He said the bank's authorised capital is \$20 million and the initial capital of \$13.9 million has been invested by "founders" members from around the world.

114 Palestinian homes threatened

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli authorities have demolished 18 Palestinian homes in Arab east Jerusalem since the start of the year and another 114 are threatened with destruction, a Palestinian official said Wednesday.

"These are only the cases we have heard of so far. There are probably more," said Mohammad Selim, the head of an office which tracks demolitions for Orient House, the unofficial offices of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Arab east Jerusalem.

"There are 114 households which have received demolition warnings and we expect them to be implemented in the coming weeks," he said.

Jerusalem authorities bulldozed on Tuesday the home of Nabil Fahmi Taha, where he and seven family members lived in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Bir Nabala, the 18th home to be demolished this year, Mr. Selim said.

Israel demolishes homes on grounds they are built without construction permits, which Palestinians

say are all but impossible to obtain from city officials.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promised to allow construction of over 3,000 homes for Palestinians, which would be the first significant boost in Arab housing since Israel occupied Arab east Jerusalem in 1967.

Some 150,000 Palestinians live in east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of an eventual state.

The entire city is a "fief capital."

Iraqis and Iranians fighting in southern Sudan — newspaper

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Soldiers from Iran and Iraq have been sent to southern Sudan to help beat back a rebel offensive, a government-financed newspaper reported Wednesday.

Zairean and former Rwandan soldiers also are fighting with the Sudanese government, the New Vision newspaper reported from Kalipaga, the largest town in southern Sudan still under government control.

Thomas Cirilo, a commander in the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) told the newspaper that eight government soldiers who surrendered to the rebels in late March "gave me incredible reports about the events on the government

side."

Another commander, George Atchor, gave a similar account based on an Iraqi who identified himself as Basir Ibrahim Adam Omar of Basra, who Commander Atchor said was captured but died of wounds.

"The Iraqi told us that 100 Iraqis and 100 Iranians were flown (to Juba) to perform certain specialised roles in the war," Commander Atchor said. He didn't elaborate.

Commander Atchor told New Vision that the Iraqis and the Iranians arrived in Juba March 16, four days after government forces suffered a major defeat outside Yei, 130 kilometres southwest of the regional capital of Juba.

Last month, the Sudanese

government signed an agreement with six former rebel leaders under which inhabitants of southern Sudan would supposedly be able to vote in a referendum on independence. The SPLA did not sign the agreement.

Jean-Marie Magabo, 32, a former officer in the Rwandan army, told the newspaper that another 500 former Rwandan soldiers were fighting alongside Sudanese government troops.

The Sudanese government would not comment Wednesday on the newspaper report.

George Garang, a Kenya-based spokesman for the Sudanese rebels, said it was no secret that there are Iraqi and Iranian officers in Sudan's army.

"They are there, openly, in Khartoum. They provide tactical advice and act as instructors," said Mr. Garang, who is not related to the SPLA leader Colonel John Garang.

Southern Sudanese, who are mostly black and Christian, took up arms shortly after Sudan's independence from joint British and Egyptian control in 1956.

The southerners wanted increased autonomy from the predominantly Muslim and Arab north.

The rebellion ended in 1972 after Khartoum established a federal system that gave southerners control of most of their affairs. The war resumed in 1983 after Khartoum reneged on the 1972 agreement.



SETTLER ARRESTED: Two Israeli police drag a Jewish settler from the Beit Hada Wednesday as the woman is arrested for attacking a Palestinian female journalist earlier in the day. The woman was arrested for attacking a Palestinian female journalist earlier in the day. The woman was arrested for attacking a Palestinian female journalist earlier in the day. The woman was arrested for attacking a Palestinian female journalist earlier in the day.

Libyan leader Qadhafi to lead prayers in Niger and Nigeria

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi plans to travel out of Libya this week to lead prayers in Niger and Nigeria to celebrate the Muslim new year, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported on Wednesday.

JANA said in a despatch distributed by its office in Tunis that Colonel Qadhafi would lead prayers on Thursday in Niger and on Friday in Nigeria.

The agency did not say how Col. Qadhafi would travel in one of his rare visits abroad since an air embargo was imposed on Libya in 1992

over the Lockerbie bombing of an airliner in 1988.

Col. Qadhafi's last trip abroad was by land to Tunisia in October 1996. He earlier violated the U.N. ban when a Libyan-registered plane flew him to Cairo and back to attend an Arab summit in June 1996.

JANA said religious representatives as well as political and trade union leaders from the African continent would attend Friday's prayer to be held in Kano, in northern Nigeria.

"The rite will be broadcast by satellite to millions of

Muslims all over the world for the first such religious event in the Islamic World in a demonstration of its strength, unity and mass support," it added.

The agency recalled that Col. Qadhafi was the leader of the Islamic Popular Leadership, an Islamist organisation created in 1989 under his sponsorship.

Col. Qadhafi said when the grouping was established that he wanted it to become equivalent to the International Council of Churches or World Jewish Congress to help poor Muslims throughout the world.

Israeli family allowed to adopt Palestinian

ASHDOD (AFP) — In a legal first for Israel, an Israeli family has received court permission to adopt a Palestinian, court sources said Wednesday.

Neither the identity of the family or their adoptive son were released by the court which made the ruling Tuesday in this southern Israeli city, but press reports said the Palestinian, 22, planned to convert to Judaism.

The father, speaking to the Haaretz newspaper on condition of anonymity, said the Palestinian from the West Bank city of Hebron had lived with the family since the age of five, when his mother was killed by relatives in a family honour dispute.

"We brought him into our home and over the years he became part of the family," he said. "We consider him our sixth child and have protected and hidden him all these years."

Legal action became necessary after Israeli police arrested the young man last year and jailed him for six months on charges of illegally entering Israel.

He was then expelled to Hebron and immediately sought to return to his Israeli family.

"My brother, who was the only immediate family I had left in Hebron, was also killed recently and my only wish now is to convert to Judaism and become Israeli," he was quoted as telling the court.

The court accepted the adoption request after Israeli security services said they had no reason to believe he represented a danger to the Jewish state.

Netanyahu appears committed to peace — Colombian president

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Colombian President Ernesto Samper, who heads the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Wednesday and said, the Israeli leader appeared committed to peace.

"What seems to me to be the fundamental point is that the political will to achieve peace exists," Mr. Samper told AFP after meeting with Mr. Netanyahu on the second day of his first visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

"From this point, I think the peace process can resume.

There are obviously difficulties, like in any peace process, but one can overcome them," he said, predicting that Israeli-Palestinian negotiations frozen for the past two months would resume "in the coming weeks."

Mr. Samper was scheduled to meet later Wednesday in Gaza City with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and to give a speech to the elected Palestinian Legislative Council.

Speaking as the current president of the 113-nation NAM, Mr. Samper also sought to explain to Mr.

Netanyahu the group's decision last month to call for a freeze in relations with Israel due to the Jewish state's handling of the Palestinian issue.

"There was a proposal put forward by Syria which recommended that our countries use a kind of diplomatic pressure to keep the peace process moving," he said.

"My interpretation of this position is that it is not aimed against Israel but is for peace," he said.

"The message was very simple, for our movement, peace in the Middle East is an irreversible reality," he said.

Hariri meets Velayati

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri will make his first visit to Tehran this spring, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Wednesday.

He also told reporters after an hour-long meeting with Mr. Hariri here that the premier accepted an invitation to attend an Islamic summit in December in the Iranian capital Tehran.

A visit to Tehran by the premier would signal an improvement in relations between the two countries.

Mr. Hariri, a Sunni Muslim backed by Syria and Saudi Arabia, has been at odds with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. The Shiite guerrilla group has led the campaign to drive Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

The government also has been concerned about growing Iranian influence in the

country's Shiite community.

Mr. Velayati, who is touring the region's capitals to invite Arab leaders to the summit, arrived Tuesday from Syria. He also visited Egypt, where President Hosni Mubarak accepted an invitation to the summit. He was to return to the Syrian capital Damascus later Wednesday.

Mr. Hariri and Mr. Velayati discussed the tense situation in southern Lebanon as well as Middle East affairs during their talks.

Tuesday, Mr. Velayati met with Foreign Minister Faris Bouez and handed President Elias Hrawi an invitation to the summit, which is sponsored by the 53-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference. Mr. Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic, accepted the invitation. He will be the only non-Muslim head of state to attend the summit.

Yemeni president new coalition government

DUBAI (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said in remarks published on Wednesday that his ruling General People's Congress (GPC) would run the country alone after its landslide victory in recent elections.

"The GPC won a majority and it will undertake full responsibility," he said in an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat.

"If others join, and if this happens, then we will accept them as participants, not as partners," he said when asked about the possibilities of forming a coalition government. A new government is expected to be named following the first session of the newly-elected parliament on May 18, official sources said.

Important Announcement

Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Co. (Fastlink) announces the interruption of its services on Friday, 9 May 1997, from 2:00 A.M. until 4:30 A.M. to upgrade its mobile telephone switch.

Fastlink apologizes to its customers for this interruption and assures them that this is an essential step to ensure the continuation of excellent service.



JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
15:45 Canaan
16:00 Comedy show
16:30 The Crime From Outer Space
16:50 American Basketball
17:25 Out of This World
18:00 French Programme
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Parenthood
20:00 Cinema: Cinema
20:30 The American Chart Show
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:35 Feature Film — "Memphis Bell"

PRAYER TIMES

04:13 Fair
05:39 (Sunrise) Doha
12:32 Dhulir
16:12 Asr
19:25 Maghrib
20:52 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

JORDAN TIMES

Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 772661
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751
Armenian International Church
Tel. 827126
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
There will be a gradual rise in temperatures over the next three days with weather conditions becoming relatively hot and

warm at night and winds easterly to southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Mini/Max. Temperatures
Amman 15/30
Aqaba 20/25
Deserts 11/32
Jordan Valley 18/34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 27, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
ASMAN:
Dr. Salman Daboubi 776751
Dr. Ramzi Mazawi 894788
Dr. Bassam Karabsh 799200
Dr. Khalid Abdo 657129
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fordows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi 989901
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 816165
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Akshah Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahl, Abdali 664184/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 365199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 109983323
Zarqa National Hospital 109900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 109986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 109999990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02775553
Greek Catholic Hospital 0272775
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 02727100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights are

supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
09:35 Sanaa (RJ)
10:10 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Bombay (RJ)
10:55 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:05 Beirut (RJ)
11:30 Colombo (RJ)
16:10 Casablanca (RJ)
16:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
18:20 Lyon (add) (RJ)
18:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
19:10 Athens (RJ)
19:55 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
20:40 Rome (RJ)
21:30 Moscow (RJ)
21:30 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
07:20 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)

Other Flights

10:30 Riyadh (SV)
12:55 Doha (GF)
13:40 Sanaa (AH)
15:00 Rome (AZ)
16:15 Dubai (EK)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
21:40 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:00 Jeddah (add) (SV)

Queen honours student participants of the Charitable Piastre Fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday attended the annual ceremony honouring students participating in the Charitable Piastre Fund ("Al-Qirsh al-Kheiri") the University of Jordan, a Royal Court statement said.

The Queen has patronised the fund since its establishment and distributed honorary certificates and commemorative cups to students, school principals and members of the Ministry of Education, commending them on their efforts to enable underprivileged students to continue their education at schools and universities in Jordan.

President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Dr. Abdullah Khatib said that the fund has raised over JD 1.5 million since its inception and has benefited more than 50,000 students.

The annual Charitable Piastre Fund (CPF), founded by GUVS in 1985, assists needy students in completing their



Her Majesty Queen Noor honours a student participant of the Charitable Piastre Fund ("Al-Qirsh al-Kheiri") at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

education by providing them with annual loans and donations, the statement said.

CPF coined its name to emphasise that donations as meagre as one piastre are

accepted, thus enabling all members of the society to contribute to the fund. It has installed charity boxes in schools to which students may donate throughout the year.

Queen Noor, accompanied by HRH Princess Alia Al Faisal, was received by the Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mansour and members of GUVS' Executive Council.

Jordan, Algeria agree to further medical cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Algeria Wednesday signed minutes of meetings in which they discussed cooperation in medicine and pharmaceutical-related fields.

During several days of talks by officials from both sides, the two countries tentatively decided to coordinate efforts regarding pharmaceutical production, promote cooperation between laboratories in Algeria and Jordan in conducting physical, chemical, micro-biological and toxin-related tests on laboratory materials, and exchange information pertaining to laws, controls and regulations regarding medicine.

The two sides also agreed to annually convene persons in charge of laboratories responsible for controlling the quality of medicine and Ministry of Health laboratories and also to conduct tests on Jordanian medicine exported to Algeria.

The minutes also provide for bilateral cooperation

between national blood banks, focusing mainly on blood transfusions, technical and legal matters regarding this operation and expert exchanges.

They also agreed to register different types of medicine produced and distributed in the two countries.

The minutes were signed by: Maisaa Saket of the Department of Pharmaceutical Affairs, Dr. Janet Merza, head of National Blood Bank and Akram Haddadin from the Health Ministry, all from Jordan, and Mansouri Mohammed Ben Suleiman, head of the National Laboratory of Algeria.

During their stay in Jordan, the Algerian delegation visited a number of Health Ministry departments, pharmaceutical plants and the National Blood Bank.

Last year, Jordanian and Algerian officials signed agreements, in Algiers, on providing medical treatment to Algerian patients in Jordanian hospitals.

Red Cross, Crescent sponsor walk today

AMMAN (Petra) — To mark the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) anniversary today, an estimated 1,000 persons will participate in a walk, held under the patronage of HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, according to Mohammad Haddid, president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), which is sponsoring the walk.

Participants will meet at Al Hussein Sports City at 10 a.m. then head towards the Ministry of Interior, the Royal Cultural Centre and back to the Sports City, he stated.

Dr. Haddid, who is also the federation's vice president, said that the annual event is observed by 170 federation members worldwide to draw focus to humanitarian services carried out by the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in times of war and peace.

The federation used to select a global slogan for the annual event, according to Dr. Haddid, however, this year, the federation resolved to leave the choice of slogans to each national branch in order to encourage independent ideas and enable various societies to highlight humanitarian services with their own motto and through their own initiatives.

Mr. Qassis called on the world to address the problem of landmines which, he said, cause the widespread loss of innocent life.

The federation aims at inspiring, encouraging, facilitating and promoting humanitarian activities through national societies to prevent and alleviate human suffering, thereby contributing to the promotion of global peace, he concluded.

Princess Sarvath donated JD 5,000 to the Balqa branch last year, he added.

Deputy Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Office for Information Affairs in Amman Mu'in Qassis explained that the walk on Thursday is designed to emphasise that humanitarian work is needed all year round.

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Chamber ensemble to announce scholarships

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Saturday May 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the National Music Conservatory (NMC) Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the winner of the 1997 Apple Hill Scholarship will be announced by the Apple Hill Chamber Music Ensemble, according to an NMC statement.

The Apple Hill members will first listen to the nominees who have applied for the scholarship.

The nominees, all NMC students are: Omar Marji (violin), Musa Abu Arqoub (percussion), Lila Farouqi (violin), Zein Zabawa (piano), Beisan Elias (violin), Laila Abushaar (violin), Basil Theodor (violin), Fadi Hattar (cello), Manar Sroufjian (piano) and Ramzi Qubain (violin), the statement said.

The Apple Hill Chamber Ensemble was founded in 1973 and consists of a violinist, a cellist, a violist, a contrabass player and two pianists. It is considered one of the foremost chamber ensembles in the United States, according to the statement.

The members of the ensemble constitute the core of the artists and musicians of the international Apple Hill Summer Camp.

Each year the ensemble tours various countries to grant scholarships for young musicians with exceptional talent from all over the world, the statement concluded.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

"Brigada central" (parts 8,9) at the Cervantes Institute, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
"The American President" at the American Centre, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

ANNUAL SOUK

"Annual Souk" at the International Community School (ICS) at the school premises (Tel. 841070) on Friday 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon.

Premier confers with World Bank official

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Bank is interested in Jordan's economic experiment and eager to support efforts to implement economic reform programmes, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the World Bank Inder Sud said Wednesday.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Mr. Sud explained that the World Bank is extending assistance to the Kingdom to help implement privatisation plans through a team of experts with vast experience in such endeavours.

Dr. Majali maintained that Jordan is continuing economic reform programmes and stimulating the Jordanian economy through promoting the private sector and taking measures to alleviate poverty, unemployment, as well as reforming the public administration and increasing investments.

In the presence of Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf, Dr. Majali said that the government hopes to reap positive results through these measures.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday meets with head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the World Bank Inder Sud. Also attending are Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf (Petra photo)

Jordan hopes the World Bank is cognisant of the Kingdom's needs and continues to provide assistance to the country, he said.

Jordan is progressing with privatisation programmes and gradually applying a decentralised policy to improve public administration.

Earlier Wednesday, the prime minister received a delegation representing the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) led by its president, Suleiman Qudah.

Mr. Qudah was briefed on steps being taken to create a regional centre in Amman for the training of journalists, a project to be carried out by the IOJ in conjunction with the Jordan Press Association (JPA) and the Berlin-based International Institute for Journalism.

Dr. Majali voiced Jordan's support for such a project, suggesting that the centre could be constructed in cooperation with Jordanian universities.

The IOJ earlier signed a deal with the JPA stipulating the centre's construction in Jordan.

Also Wednesday, Dr. Majali visited the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to discuss decentralisation and improvements to public administration.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Kreishan briefed Dr. Majali on ministry plans and projects.

Islamic Action Front determined to enter electoral race with 'maximum momentum'

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) will enter the election campaign "with maximum momentum" and is determined to win more seats than in 1993, the party's secretary-general said on Wednesday.

The IAF campaign will focus, at the domestic level, on unemployment, administrative reforms, and national unity, and, at the regional level, on straightening inter-Arab ties, with a special emphasis on Gulf countries, IAF Secretary General Isbaq Farhan disclosed Tuesday.

Denying that the Islamists feel threatened by the recent merger of nine centrist parties into the National Constitutional Party (NCP), Dr. Farhan welcomed the move as "a step forward in Jordan's democratic march."

Hoping to capitalise on the hardline policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Dr. Farhan also said he was confident that the stall in the Arab-Israeli peace process will give "even more credibility" to the IAF. "The people were promised a bright future of economic expansion and prosperity after signing the peace treaties," Dr. Farhan told the Jordan Times.

"But those which were signed were submission treaties rather than peace treaties," and now, that the economic benefits of peace are yet to be seen and the peace process is stalled, "we (the IAF), who have always opposed the signing of these treaties, have even more credibility before the people," he said.

Rejecting speculation that the merger of nine centrist parties into the NCP, officially sealed by Minister of Interior Nadhir Rashid on Tuesday, will somehow challenge the IAF in this autumn's coming elections, Dr. Farhan said he is "not anxious about any consolidation of any political party."

"On the contrary, we welcome any consolidation," Dr. Farhan said, noting that, with the decrease in the number of political parties, "people will be better able to distinguish and select."

"Jordan does not need more than three to five parties," he asserted, and listed those as "an Islamic, a nationalist, a leftist, a democratic and a liberal party."

After the establishment of the centrist NCP, a second bloc, but with progressive, leftist-moderate leanings, seems in the making. Negotiations are under way between social-democratic leader Issa Madanat, Secretary General of the pan-Arabist Al Mustaqbal Party Suleiman Arar, and high-profile independent personalities, such as former Prime Ministers Ahmad Obeidat and Taher Masri.

"I hope they succeed, because if they fragment again, there will be frustration," was Dr. Farhan's comment on both the newly-established centrist bloc and the projected progressive one.

The IAF is also coordinating with nine smaller opposition parties under the framework of the "Higher Committee for Coordination among Opposition Parties," active since 1993.

Dr. Farhan, however, excluded the possibility of any formal electoral alliance being finalised among the parties in the Higher Committee. "We will not agree on a unified ticket," he declared.

"But we might agree on some common denominators, and even on a common candidate, in some constituencies," he conceded.

IAF Deputy Abdullah Akaileh, leader of the more moderate wing of the front, recently proposed an Islamist-leftist political alliance to counteract the consolidation of the centrist parties in the NCP.

"As a target, it is a healthy suggestion, but in practice it is very difficult," Dr. Farhan commented on Dr. Akaileh's proposal.

As for the IAF recipe to fight unemployment, which official statistics place at around 14 per cent and unofficial statistics say nears 18 per cent, it is mainly based on the repatriation of Jordan's 400,000 foreign workers, and encouragement of the Gulf countries to accept Jordanian workers.

"We are importing university teachers, which we do not need," Dr. Farhan said.

"If we improved ties with other Arab countries, we could also consider labour markets, in countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq, after the siege is over," Dr. Farhan suggested, recalling that, before the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, these countries were absorbing a considerable share of Jordan's labour force.

As the Kingdom's strongest opposition party, the IAF won 22 seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament in the 1989 general elections and 17 in the 1993 general elections.

The IAF faulted the loss of seats upon the introduction, ahead of the 1993 elections, of the one-person, one-vote system. The Islamists have perceived the move as aimed at decreasing their representation in Parliament. In Jordan's tribal society, when given only one vote, voters would choose their family's candidate and tribal considerations would overpower political affiliations and beliefs, they said.

"Notwithstanding the electoral law, we will increase our number of seats," Dr. Farhan asserted.

Former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who resigned in March, had promised a series of amendments to the current electoral law, including the increase in the number of Lower House members, the re-drawing of electoral districts, and the lowering of the voting age from 19 to 18.

However, the current government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, sworn in immediately after Mr. Kabariti's resignation, has declared that only "minor adjustments" will be introduced to the election law and has denied that it will either lower the voting age or increase the number of deputies.

However, the final word has not yet been spoken, and, awaiting the final version of the law slated to govern the next elections, "we still have hopes that the government will introduce some changes, at least to demonstrate good will," Dr. Farhan said.

Journalist alleges maltreatment during questioning

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Fahd Rimawi, veteran journalist and editor of the weekly newspaper Al Majd, Wednesday declared that he would appeal to His Majesty King Hussein to secure his safety, alleging that security forces threatened and humiliated him.

Mr. Rimawi, 56, claimed in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times that he was called in by security forces Tuesday evening for questioning, but instead was humiliated and "slapped in the face."

"As soon as I entered the office, two security officers cursed me and began to slap me on the face and call me names without telling me for what reason, then before releasing me they indirectly threatened me," Mr. Rimawi alleged in a statement he faxed to the press.

The Jordan Times could not obtain an official comment on Mr. Rimawi's allegations.

Mr. Rimawi's newspaper is known for its vehement opposition to both the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel and the Oslo accords between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

In its latest issue Monday, the newspaper, reporting a Jordanian student's attack on an Israeli tourist, opined that "only dark circumstances prevented (the student)

from killing the woman."

It also reported, quoting what it described as well-informed sources, that a high-ranking intelligence officer, Major General Abdul Ilah Kurdi, would replace Lt. Gen. Nasouh Muhiddin as chief of the Public Security Department (PSD).

The law bans all news, commentary or drawings disparaging the security forces.

Mohammad Amin, undersecretary of the Ministry of Information and director of the Press and Publications Department (PPD), maintained the department previously admonished Mr. Rimawi for publishing false news concerning the security forces without relying on official and reliable sources.

"This time we decided only to issue a warning to Mr. Rimawi and we informed him that if he repeats his mistake he will be taken to court," Mr. Amin said.

Mr. Amin said his department has no wish to punish journalists, but would rather cooperate with the press and share responsibility for accuracy.

Only yesterday, Mr. Rimawi's first column in many years appeared in Jordan's leading daily, Al Ra'i.

Rotarians call for regional peace

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional Rotarian conference ended in Amman Wednesday with a call to the international community to help remove barriers which currently delay the establishment of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In their concluding statement, delegates from Jordan, Cyprus, Lebanon, Egypt, Bahrain and Sudan stated need for ending all forms of instability and injustice so that the people of the region might live in peace and security.

The conference, attended by a thousand Rotarians representing 85 regional clubs, passed a number of resolutions aimed at helping local communities overcome poverty.

Subsequent to the meeting, Regional Governor Tawfiq Kassar told the press that Rotary Clubs in Jordan have allocated an annual sum of \$50,000 until the year 2000 to finance a polio immunisation campaign.

The Jordanian Rotarian Clubs have heretofore

donated \$450,000, used by local communities to finance projects, especially in underprivileged areas of the Kingdom, he added.

Some of these donations have financed polio immunisations of 600,000 children, according to Mr. Kassar.

Through meeting in Jordan, the Rotarians have indirectly helped boost the tourism industry as well as business as, he said, most of the delegates are entrepreneurs.

Mr. Kassar confirmed that Israel is not a member of the Rotarians in the region. He said that among the objectives of the international Rotarians is the creation of a harmonious atmosphere among members of the same region, which necessarily mandates Israel's exclusion.

"There are no links between Rotary Clubs in the region and those in Israel, nor is there any exchange of visits with Rotary Clubs in Israel," he said, adding that the Rotarians are against occupation.

Jordan Times
Facsimile #696183

Japan stresses island sovereignty, chides MP

TOKYO (R) — Japan underscored its sovereignty over disputed islands in the East China Sea Wednesday, but described a visit there by a nationalist legislator as an "illegal act" that was bad for Tokyo's foreign relations.

The legislator's landing Tuesday on the uninhabited islets, called the Senkaku Islands by Japan and the Diaoyu Islands by China, drew sharp protests from rival claimants China and Taiwan, which each slammed Tokyo for its low-key stance towards the action.

On Wednesday a group of Taiwanese activists stormed the quasi-official embassy of Japan in Taipei to protest the landing.

Japan's top government spokesman Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference: "The Japanese government has repeatedly stressed that the islands are territory under Japanese control, but in view of the landowner saying he does not want landings or other activities on the islands, it was an illegal act."

"The landing was also not a good idea from the point of view of foreign relations."

Japan has claimed the islands, located between Taiwan and Okinawa, since 1895, while China says it has owned them since ancient times.

China, Taiwan and Hong Kong activists backing China's claims to the Japanese-administered isles all reacted with anger to the landing by legislator Shingen Nishimura, who with three other people planted a Japanese flag and spent two hours surveying and holding a memorial ceremony on one of the islands.

Mr. Kajiyama said there were no plans to prosecute Mr. Nishimura or to summon him for census.

Mr. Nishimura's political party, the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), like the central government, distanced itself from the landing, saying it was a private act in which the party had no involvement.

Senior Shinshinto official Takeshi Noda questioned the necessity for what he called Mr. Nishimura's "look-at-me demonstration."

Mr. Nishimura's timing was bad, too, as Japan will soon begin debating upgrading its security ties with the United States, a matter of concern in China, Mr. Noda said.

Mr. Nishimura, until Tuesday's landing an obscure junior legislator whose Osaka constituency is at least 1,000 kilometres from the disputed islands, appeared unbowed by the

criticism and international friction.

"The government has avoided asserting itself as a state, saying that would hurt the feelings of neighbouring countries," he told reporters on his return late Tuesday to Okinawa prefecture, which administers the disputed islands.

"That is not the response of a sovereign state."

The latest episode in a decades-old dispute which was rekindled last year when a Japanese right-wing group built a makeshift lighthouse is an embarrassment for Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who hopes to exchange visits with his Chinese counterpart Li Peng later this year to mark the 25th anniversary of bilateral ties.

In Taipei, Taiwan activists Wednesday stormed into the quasi-official embassy of Japan in Taipei to protest what they called the illegal landing by four Japanese on the disputed islands.

Some 18 activists disguised as visa applicants succeeded in entering the visa office of Japan's Interchange Association to protest against Tuesday's landing on the disputed Diaoyu, or Senkaku, Islands by a group led by the Japanese legislator.

The association represents Japanese interests in Taiwan in the absence of diplomatic relations.

Shouting "down with Japanese militarism," the activists from the Taiwan Diaoyu Islands Defence Action Committee pelted office counters and walls with eggs, forcing staff to take cover.

"Japan is too coercive and shameless. It has repeatedly invaded Chinese territory and now it occupies the Diaoyu Islands. Its legislator even landed on the island," said Ching Chia-Shou, leader of the action committee.

Mr. Ching read a protest statement: "Your right-wing group has repeatedly landed on our territory and openly challenged the Chinese people. We are not the soft and weak people... and will eliminate all hardships to defend our territory."

No arrests were made during the incident.

Mr. Ching later said his committee would join forces with activists from Hong Kong to declare "our sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands."

"We are planning a large-scale action on May 18, taking boats to near the Diaoyu and swim(ming) ashore. We plan to land on the island and stay there overnight," he said.

H. Kong's Tung tackles handover issues in Beijing

HONG KONG (R) — The future leader of Hong Kong Tung Chee-hwa flew in Beijing Wednesday to discuss a raft of outstanding problems facing him in the territory's final 55 days as a British colony before returning to China.

Mr. Tung, a former shipping magnate appointed by Beijing to run Hong Kong after the handover, was set to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and China's Hong Kong policy chief Lu Ping.

His burdens include a clutch of draft laws he wants to run through a controversial shadow legislature by July 1, when the curtain comes down on 156 years of British rule.

A big segment of the Hong Kong political establishment, especially lawyers and pro-democracy politicians, regard the provisional legislature as an illegal entity engaged in unconstitutional rivalry with the elected legislature, LEGCO.

In addition, Mr. Tung faces hefty public opposition to his China-inspired plan to whittle down civil liberties, restricting protest

rights and foreign funding of local political parties.

This week he reinforced his desire to curb protests when he told foreign correspondents that anti-government protests similar to recent demonstrations in Taiwan would not be permitted, nor any advocating independence for Hong Kong, Taiwan or Tibet.

The rival legislatures are also locked in a wrangle over Hong Kong residency laws and efforts to bring laws on sedition and secession into line with Hong Kong's post-1997 constitution, the basic law, which China promulgated in 1990.

The pro-democracy camp has threatened to sue if the shadow legislature passes any laws before July 1.

Signs emerged Wednesday that the vast array of grand celebrations planned by various groups in Hong Kong in mark the historic handover were posing further headaches for Mr. Tung.

Most groups staging events were still awaiting final approval from Mr. Tung's short-staffed government-in-waiting.

A pro-China association

coordinating handover events said Tuesday it hoped to meet Mr. Tung within the next two weeks to finalise the celebration programme straddling the sovereignty change, which takes place at midnight on June 30.

Police have said at least 176 festive events are already registered with their handover security team, ranging from pop concerts, variety shows and fireworks displays to boat and car carnivals, cultural shows, exhibitions and sporting events.

Meanwhile would-be organisers of the revelry are scouring cramped Hong Kong to identify suitable celebration venues.

The main events, however, are already organised — a sunset military parade by the British on the evening of June 30 and a joint Sino-British ceremony with 4,000 dignitaries at midnight.

Mr. Tung is also grappling with a major frontier security problem. Hong Kong has been inundated lately with a wave of illegal immigration — mainly children from China dodging the immigra-

tion queue to join relatives already in Hong Kong.

An unprecedented military-style joint China-Hong Kong immigration exercise is planned this month on the border and at sea to beef up controls to curb the immigration.

A Chinese news agency announced Tuesday night Beijing would tighten its system of emigration permits for people moving to Hong Kong, to crack down on corrupt allocation of permits by greedy officials.

The problem has been put down as a major cause of the illegal immigration wave.

The task of running Hong Kong — the world's eighth largest trading economy — looks like becoming more daunting after a Tung aide said its 6.4 million population could swell to 10 million in the next 20 years.

Raymond Chien, a member of Mr. Tung's cabinet, the Executive Council, told Hong Kong Radio that planning should start on more roads, housing and schools to cope with the population growth, which would be largely fuelled by immigrants from the mainland.

U.N. officials appeal again on food for N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Catherine Bertini, the director of the World Food Programme (WFP), Tuesday appealed again to governments to give food aid directly to North Korea because her agency could not handle all emergency needs.

"The World Food Programme is deliberately running a limited operation in North Korea," she told a news conference, saying this aid was monitored closely for delivery to schools, hospitals and pockets of extremely vulnerable people.

"So it will be important for governments to give directly to the government of North Korea for them to distribute through the public distribution system. This is the only way that ultimately enough food will arrive," she said.

WFP, a U.N. agency, so far this year has appealed for 200,000 tonnes of food or about \$95 million and about \$38.6 million has been raised. But Ms. Bertini said the country needed 1.3 million tonnes "to avoid malnutrition and potential starvation this year." China donated 70,000 tonnes recently.

Her appeal implied that governments should give outside the WFP framework and be less concerned about monitoring the distribution because of the dire emergency.

Bertini said she had heard from her team visiting ports as well as North and South Hamgyong province, in the northeast of the country where foreigners had previously visited.

Among its findings were that most children could not

afford to go to school because this meant bringing one's own food. The same, she said, was true for hospitals.

Officially distributed food rations, she said, meant grinding up corn stalks, empty cobs of corn and empty peapods, turning them into a powder which was then mixed with leaves or bark to produce brown or green cakes.

Mr. Bertini said there was virtually no nutritional value in this concoction but "this staves off the pain of hunger."

South Korea, the United States and Japan are expected to be the major donors. But they have held off donating large quantities, thereby slowing down donations elsewhere, diplomats said.

Both South Korea and the

United States are trying to entice North Korea into peace negotiations by offering food, fearing too much aid too soon would feed its one million member army. Ms. Bertini, in answer to queries, said the army had been reduced to about 250,000 (700 grammes) a day.

The United States said on April 28 it would consider "very seriously" any new WFP food appeal for North Korea, without explaining why it was not contributing more to the current appeal. Asked about the comments, Mr. Bertini would say only "well, I am appealing."

The food shortage came after two years of flooding that ruined farmland. The damage was particularly severe because trees had been cleared for firewood and agriculture.

leaders of Heaven's Gate.

Chuck Humphrey, who was unconscious and listed in a critical condition, also appeared separately on the videotape.

Humphrey and Cooke evidently tried to commit suicide in exactly the same fashion as the 39 members of Heaven's Gate. They both wore black clothes and Nike athletic shoes and were covered by a purple shroud.



An elderly Taiwanese shouts anti-Japanese slogans inside the visa issuing section of Japan's quasi-official embassy in Taipei Wednesday protesting recent landing on the disputed Diaoyu Islands by four Japanese. The disputed archipelago in the East China Sea is claimed by Taiwan, China and Japan (Reuter photo)

U.S. House panel approves foreign aid bill

WASHINGTON (R) — A House of Representatives committee approved a two-year \$32.4 billion foreign aid bill Tuesday after stripping a controversial part on abortion.

The bill, approved by the International Relations Committee, authorises foreign aid spending and sets the United States' foreign policy directives.

As drafted, the measure would have barred U.S. aid to the United Nations Population Fund, long a target of anti-abortion activists. But the committee voted 23-16 to strip language from the bill that would have made aid conditional on a presidential certification that the fund had terminated all activities in China and that there had been no coercive abortions in China as a result of Chinese government policies.

Opponents of the provision said it would jeopardise the worldwide programmes of the Population Fund and oodled that the U.N. agency does not operate any programmes in China. The committee agreed to compromise language that would deny any use of American aid in the U.N. agency for programmes in China.

The bill would tie full funding of aid to Russia to assurances that Russia had not helped ballistic missile and nuclear programmes in Iran and had ended aid to nuclear projects in Cuba.

It would also cut aid to countries whose diplomats ignore parking tickets in the United States. The cuts in aid would be 110 per cent of the unpaid parking fines.

The committee also voted to require reports to Congress on the implementation of a section of the so-called Helms-Burton Law tightening sanctions in Cuba.

This stemmed from an administration pledge to the European Union that it would try to meet concerns over a provision barring from the United States executives of foreign companies investing in property seized by the Cuban government.

Drafters of the bill omitted any provisions setting out terms for U.S. payment of about \$1 billion in arrears to the United Nations. Negotiations are taking place with the administration on this issue and an amendment dealing with it is expected to be offered during house debate.

Yeltsin demands new impetus for sluggish military reforms

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday urged more decisive action to create a professional army as Russia geared up to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of its victory over Nazi Germany in World War II on May 9.

In an interview published on the front page of the army daily Krasnaya Zvezda, Mr. Yeltsin said the measures taken so far to transform Russia's cash-strapped, conscript-based army into an efficient, professional force were "clearly insufficient."

"A lot of the problems today, including army financing, can be explained in terms of this delay (over reforms). They are created by the slow pace of our progress toward achieving a more streamlined, professional army with better organisation and equipment."

During his reelection campaign last year, Mr. Yeltsin announced ambitious

plans to convert Russia's army of at least 1.5 million troops into a professional, 1.25 million strong force by 2000. He has not confirmed that target date since then.

Defence Minister Igor Rodionov has repeatedly complained that the army is chronically under-funded and that such plans are unrealistic.

Last month Gen. Rodionov said Russia would not have a professional army before the year 2005.

Mr. Yeltsin has previously chided Gen. Rodionov for his complaints, saying the military bureaucracy should make better use of the funds available.

According to Defence Council Secretary Yuri Baturin, the army's problems have been exacerbated by the fact that its true size is unknown. He put the real figure at 2.5 million, which would include "military facilities with personnel, equipment and an infrastruc-

ture which are not listed anywhere."

Mr. Yeltsin told Krasnaya Zvezda that like other state structures, the army was also "infected by corruption, bribery and theft."

"We need to act decisively to clean out this filth," he said.

The armed forces have been plagued by a series of high-level corruption scandals.

Last month Mr. Yeltsin sacked Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Igor Khmelov, Commander-in-Chief of Land Forces Vladimir Serdyukov, Deputy Commander of Land Forces General Anton Terentyev and Admiral Vyacheslav Kharinikov, first deputy commander of the Northern Fleet.

The new draft budget submitted to parliament Tuesday would cut defence expenditure from 104.3 trillion rubles (\$17.9 billion) to 83.1 trillion, but salaries will be unaffected.

Nemtsov: 'I don't want to be president'

MOSCOW (AFP) — Boris Nemtsov, the charismatic young market reformer who was appointed Russian first deputy prime minister in March, said Wednesday he had no plans to run for president and would not stand in the way of Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

"I don't want to be president," Mr. Nemtsov, 37, told the Nezavisimaya Gazeta daily.

"Every person has his limitations. It's a different matter if some ambitious people are convinced that they are occupying a post well below their capabilities," Mr. Nemtsov said.

Mr. Nemtsov's high-profile media image had prompted some observers to tip him as a likely candidate for the next presidential elections, due to be held in 2000.

Mr. Luzhkov, a populist who was reelected mayor of the capital by a landslide last summer, has not officially announced that he will run for the presidency, but his frequent statements on major national policy issues have given credence

to the view that he is aiming for the top job.

Mr. Nemtsov appeared to endorse such speculation, saying he had "no plans to stand in the way of Yuri Luzhkov."

Describing his relations with Mr. Luzhkov as "friendly," Mr. Nemtsov nevertheless played down the mayor's achievements in modernising Moscow, saying much of the success was due to the capital's "particular circumstances."

Much of the foreign investment attracted to Russia is concentrated in Moscow, and property prices in the city, especially for businesses, are among the highest in the world.

In a speech to World War II veterans at the weekend, Mr. Luzhkov criticised the new market reforms in the cabinet, and said Moscow would not be subject to the reforms of housing subsidies which Mr. Nemtsov has vowed to push through.

Mr. Nemtsov insisted that speculation about the next presidential elections was premature, saying President Boris Yeltsin "is in good

health, and working fairly actively."

Mr. Nemtsov said Mr. Yeltsin had also confided to him that he dreamed of going down in history as a modern Yaroslav the Wise — the 11th-century prince whose reign marked the zenith of the Kievan Empire, then one of the most powerful empires in Europe.

Yaroslav's reign was followed by fratricidal warfare for the succession.

On Saturday, ambitious former National Security Chief Alexander Lebed said he saw Mr. Luzhkov as his only real challenger in future presidential elections.

"I have a lot of respect for Mr. Nemtsov, but I'm sure he will not be able to build himself up effectively in time for the elections," Gen. Lebed said. Gen. Lebed, 47, was co-opted by Mr. Yeltsin after coming third in the first round of the presidential elections last June. However, despite clinching a landmark peace deal in Chechnya he was ousted from the Kremlin in October after falling foul of Mr. Yeltsin's team.

West must use NATO as 'corset' for Russia, Estonian leader says

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The West must use NATO as a "corset" to support and direct developments in Russia, Estonia's President Lennart Meri said in an interview in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) Wednesday.

"The Western view that Russia could transform itself into a democracy within a short time through the signing of conventions, by

the use of pen and ink, was a romantic notion," he said.

The West must put a corset around Russia in order to provide long-term support and direct developments there, Mr. Meri said, telling the FAZ: "NATO is like a corset."

He expressed disappointment that Estonia was not among the first countries being invited to join the Western military alliance

and was also faced with hesitations over its future with the European Union (EU).

Mr. Meri complained that while French President Jacques Chirac had expressed support for Estonia's rapid entry into the EU, the German government engaged in "double-talk."

The Estonian leader rejected all attempts to discourage aspiration by the Baltic states to NATO membership.

2 linked to Heaven's Gate attempt suicide, 1 dies

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Two men with links to the "Heaven's Gate" cult tried to commit suicide, with one succeeding and the other left unconscious in critical condition, officials said Tuesday.

The death scene at Holiday Inn Express virtually replicated the March 26 mass suicide of 39 Cyber cultists who took their lives by consuming large quantities of

sedatives washed down with vodka, investigators said.

The group, which made a comfortable living by working on websites, believed they would reach a higher plane of existence by "leaving their vehicles" and hitching a ride on a spaceship trailing the Hale-Bopp comet.

Wayne Cooke, who hooked up with the group 22 years ago and left, was identified as the man who committed suicide. He had expressed regret on national television that he had not joined his wife who was among those who took their lives.

"I'm sane and I'm happy," said Cooke, who sent a videotape of himself to CNN to explain his actions. "I want very much to follow my classmates and my teachers Ti and Do," referring to the

leaders of Heaven's Gate. Chuck Humphrey, who was unconscious and listed in a critical condition, also appeared separately on the videotape.

Humphrey and Cooke evidently tried to commit suicide in exactly the same fashion as the 39 members of Heaven's Gate. They both wore black clothes and Nike athletic shoes and were covered by a purple shroud.



U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo walk past a group of flag waving children, during Mr. Clinton's official welcoming ceremony at the Campo Marte military base in Mexico City (Renter photo)

Clinton, Zedillo work to ease strains in relations

MEXICO CITY (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo worked Tuesday to ease strains in U.S.-Mexican relations by agreeing to intensify the war on drugs and cooperate on border migration problems.

"We are here because we know that we have to make this relationship work together beyond party politics, within our countries and across our borders," Mr. Clinton told his Mexican hosts on the second day of his state visit here.

Mr. Clinton came to Mexico at a time of tense relations. America is upset at the flow of narcotics and illegal immigrants from Mexico, Mexico believes the United States must cut its appetite for drugs and detests a new U.S. anti-immigration law.

With that in mind, the two presidents signed a declaration of alliance against drugs committing the two governments to complete by the end of the year a common anti-drug strategy and seek a hemispheric treaty to outlaw illegal arms dealing.

Mr. Clinton pledged to do more to cut the annual \$49 billion demand for illegal drugs at home — a point he stressed to Mexicans long sensitive about lectures from Washington on how to run the drug war.

"Let's be frank here. On the American side, the problems are: We have less than five per cent of the world's population and we consume about half the drugs," Mr. Clinton told a news conference after the signing ceremony under a hot sun outdoors at Los Pinos presidential palace.

The two leaders also agreed to a migration declaration pledging protection for migrants' rights and enforcement of the law against illegals.

Mr. Zedillo, fearful of domestic criticism in highly nationalist nation, repeatedly stressed that all the agreements signed with Mr. Clinton explicitly recognised and respected Mexico's national sovereignty.

But he ducked a question about whether Mexico had agreed to a long-standing U.S. demand for Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents to carry weapons when in Mexico.

The White House also refused to comment, but hinted at a deal. "There are some issues, the solution of which is inversely proportional to how much you talk about them," said National Security adviser Sandy Berger.

A White House summary of the drug alliance said Mexico agreed to extradite its own citizens to stand trial in the United States in "exceptional" cases — apparently a major concession by Mr. Zedillo.

Mr. Clinton went out of his way to be respectful of Mexico's sovereignty and sensitivities about its powerful northern neighbour.

"We live side by side as neighbours, and we work together, day in and day out, as partners, but the warmth of your reception has reminded us that today we are among the closest of friends," he said in his toast at a state dinner in his honour at the National Palace.

"Mexico and the United States share one of the largest borders in the world. We share accomplishments, such as the vigorous dynamism of our trading relationships and the new understanding of our governments," Mr. Zedillo said in his toast at the state dinner, where he praised Mr. Clinton.

Security was heavy during the day, with thousands of police officers lining a key downtown avenue where Mr. Clinton passed by. A small crowd of people gathered to watch and wave at the U.S. president as he entered the Fine Arts Palace, where he and other guests watched an opera performance.

The first U.S. president to visit Mexico City since Jimmy Carter came in 1979, Mr. Clinton appeared at Mexico City's monument to the boy heroes.

The site remembers a group of teenage Mexican cadets who killed themselves rather than surrender to U.S. invaders during a war 150 years ago in which Mexico lost more than half its territory including present-day Texas and California.

Asked if his intention was to apologise to Mexicans who died resisting American troops, Mr. Clinton noted Harry Truman had also visited the monument on a trip to Mexico City in 1947.

"I do not believe the president of the United States should decline to go because of what happened between our two countries a long time ago," Mr. Clinton said. "We are trying to heal the wounds of war."

Hoping to heal other sores opened earlier this year by acrimonious debates over Mexican drug corruption and a U.S. crackdown on immigration, the two leaders took great pains to praise each other. Mr. Clinton speaking of Mr. Zedillo's "bold" leadership and Mr. Zedillo calling Mr. Clinton "a good friend of Mexico."

Saying he wanted to "support the political reform process in Mexico," Mr. Clinton also held unprecedented meetings with Mexico's two opposition leaders — Andres Lopez Obrador of the left-leaning Party of the Democratic Revolution and Felipe Calderon of the conservative National Action Party.

Cohen to call for more U.S. base closures

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary William Cohen will press Congress to close more domestic military bases and approve up to \$2 billion in extra funds for missile defence in a major defence strategy report this month, the Pentagon said.

"He will seek additional base closures," Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon told reporters following warnings from Mr. Cohen that more base closures were needed to catch up with U.S. troop cuts made since the end of the Cold War.

Other defence officials told Reuters privately that Mr. Cohen will seek two new rounds of politically painful base closings in 1999 and 2001 and would propose a minimal cut of 60,000 troops in the 1.4 million-member U.S. Armed Forces.

Defence officials confirmed a Washington Post report that Mr. Cohen had decided to recommend some reduction in numbers in planned jet fighter programmes for the air force and navy, but gave no details of the cuts.

The newspaper also said Mr. Cohen would propose shrinking the navy's fleet. The moves are all part of the so-called Quadrennial Defence Review (QDR), which is aimed at preserving a superpower military with more modern weapons in the face of static defence budgets in the years to come.

The Defence Department has already shut or is closing dozens of big domestic bases and hundreds of smaller facilities in four rounds of domestic closings that

are scheduled to be completed in 2001.

Mr. Cohen himself said in a speech to business executives in Washington Tuesday night on the QDR: "We should ask Congress ... should we protect facilities instead of protecting our forces?"

He declined to give details of the report, which is scheduled to go to Congress on May 15, but added that he would name a team of experts Friday to study additional cuts in the bureaucracy of his own office in order to save money for weapons modernisation.

"Let me tell you, in my judgment the office of Secretary of Defence is too big, is too bureaucratic and it has to be reformed," he said.

Mr. Cohen said that the panel would recommend by

year's end cuts in the office of the secretary, which controls much of the vast civilian bureaucracy at the Pentagon.

Defence officials said the group would be headed by Arnold Punaro, former chief of staff of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Department spokesman Bacon told reporters earlier Tuesday that the QDR would also seek between \$1 billion and \$2 billion in additional funding to develop a possible national defence against missile attack.

Mr. Bacon declined to give details of the new base closings plan, but other defence officials said privately that Mr. Cohen intended to press lawmakers to approve an additional two rounds of closings, one beginning in 1999 and the other in 2001.

Mr. Cohen said that the panel would recommend by

ing the GATT Uruguay round on free trade.

Mr. Bolger is expected to put gentle pressure on Mr. Kohl to liberalise air services between their two countries. Germany, on the other hand, is seeking support for a permanent position on an expanded Security Council at the United Nations.

Mr. Bolger said he would also discuss political and economic reform with Mr. Kohl.

"Our MMP (mixed member proportional electoral) system is based largely on the system developed in Germany. I'm certain we will exchange views," he said.

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ing the GATT Uruguay round on free trade.

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Chirac steps into electoral fray with a plea for voter 'confidence'

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac stepped into the electoral fray Wednesday with a plea to voters for "confidence" in the embattled centre-right coalition, now running almost neck-and-neck with the opposition less than three weeks before the poll.

"We must move ahead to seize upon our chance. The key word is confidence ... I need your support to pursue the work we have begun together," he said.

Mr. Chirac's appeal, contained in a page-long open letter published in 14 provincial newspapers, marked a somewhat dour second anniversary of his term as head of state.

As France awaited the president's message the previous day, the neo-Gaullist suffered a ringing new poll blow, with a survey indicating that 65 per cent of the French were unhappy with his record. It was the worst rating for a president in 22 years.

His decision to join the battle for the snap election, taking place 10 months ahead of schedule, comes as the centre-right government headed by Prime Minister Alain Juppe slipped in the polls, with surveys showing

the majority likely to win but with a greatly reduced majority in the 577-seat parliament.

Mr. Chirac in the message lashed out at the previous Socialist-led administrations of the 1980s, though without naming his opponents, saying: "Our country in the past did not always make the right choices."

"The time has come to begin a new stage," he said, implicitly scolding Socialist proposals to "reduce unemployment by decree in creating still more public jobs."

The government needed to continue the work that had been started, he said, arguing it had to begin afresh after cleaning up the mess made by previous administrations.

There was immediate reaction from the Socialists, with former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius dubbing the message "banal" and party leader Lionel Jospin saying "we expected something more far-reaching."

While founder and long-time leader of the right-wing Rally For the Republic (RPR) Party, the leading partner in the outgoing centre-right coalition, Mr. Chirac as president is sup-

posed to be above politics.

But his predecessors, Socialist Francois Mitterrand and centrist Valery Giscard d'Estaing, both intervened in crucial election campaigns to call unmistakably for a vote for their respective camps.

Responding to the Socialist move in introducing a minimum quota of women candidates, Mr. Chirac pledged to do all he could to enable women to participate fully in politics and economic affairs.

To this end, he said, he proposed a ban on the common practice in France of holding more than one elected post at a time, such as parliamentary deputy and mayor.

Mr. Chirac also pledged that those responsible for "financial scandals, in particular in certain public enterprises, would be sanctioned," added: "Everyone must be responsible for their actions, impunity is unacceptable."

French magistrates have been uncovering a rash of cases of fraud and corruption, many of them to the benefit of the RPR and other political parties and some threatening to smear Mr. Chirac himself.

The president defended the outgoing government's record on social security reform, privatisation and curbs on immigration. But he made little mention of Europe, a theme which divides the right.

The Neo-Gaullist president called the snap elections on April 21, saying he needed a fresh mandate to continue state-shrinking reforms required if France is to join the first wave of a European single currency.

Polls initially gave the centre-right a comfortable victory in the National Assembly, but the Socialists have recently shown signs of whittling away the majority's 80 per cent stranglehold on the assembly, leaving them with a majority of only 40 to 50 seats.

Mr. Chirac justified his decision to call the early polls by saying France had to press ahead with needed reforms if the country was to enter the first wave of nations with a single European currency.

Mr. Jospin, who has forged links with Communists and Greens, has said he would not sacrifice jobs to achieve the euro criteria, making joblessness the key issue.

6 candidates vie for U.K. Conservative leadership

LONDON (R) — The fight to lead Britain's defeated Conservative Party turned into a six-horse race Wednesday when former Welsh Secretary William Hague and ex-Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell put themselves forward.

"I am standing as someone who wants to see the future rebuilt," Mr. Dorrell told the BBC.

He said he wanted "to rethink the policy position of the Conservative Party so we address the concerns of the voters directly."

Mr. Hague also used the BBC to confirm that he would be standing.

"I think the Conservative Party needs a fresh start after a very heavy election defeat and I think I am best placed to provide it."

So far, pro-European former Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke, right-wing former Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley, former Interior Minister Michael Howard and arch-anti-European John Redwood have put themselves forward to succeed John Major.

Mr. Major announced he was stepping down last Friday, the morning after Tony Blair's Labour Party dealt the Conservatives their worst election defeat since 1832.

Mr. Hague, aged just 36, has become the bookmakers' favourite since former deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine threw the race wide open by deciding he would not stand after he was admitted to hospital at the weekend due to a heart scare.

Mr. Hague had reached

agreement to stand as deputy leader to Mr. Howard, but later pulled out of the deal, an action which has led to charges of indecision.

Mr. Hague rejected this and said people would discover that he knew exactly what he had to do.

"I want to reaffirm the basic values of the Conservative Party," Mr. Hague said. "The Conservative Party has got to recover its self-belief and its will to win."

"It has to be ready to learn from the Labour Party in its methods of communication."

Mr. Hague confirmed that he was opposed to the planned single European Union (EU) currency.

"We should not be part of a single European currency, but we've got to couch our

views about Europe in positive terms. We want to be in Europe, but not run by Europe," he said in a reference to the EU's drive for greater integration of the 15-nation bloc.

Whoever emerges as winner faces the formidable task of reuniting a Conservative Party divided by squabbles over Europe and reduced to half its size in the House of Commons by the Labour election landslide.

Although the leadership election is not expected before early summer, alliances have already begun to be declared.

Former Education Secretary Gillian Shephard, once mentioned as a possible leadership contender, announced she was backing Mr. Lilley.

Kashmir hostages were killed — militant

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Four Westerners seized by Muslim separatists in troubled Kashmir 21 months ago have been killed by their captors, a top militant told Indian interrogators, official sources said Wednesday.

Abdul Mateen, a district commander of pro-Pakistan Harkat-ul-Ansar who was arrested following a gumbate Monday, told Border Security Forces (BSF) that the four hostages were killed by the Al Faran separatist group.

"All the four foreigners were killed and buried in the forest area of Wadwan, Magam Rakh in south Kashmir," Mr. Mateen, a Pakistan resident told the BSF officers.

But the BSF sources who were interrogating Mr. Mateen, said the militant could be misleading them as most of the details he had revealed were already known and he could be repeating hearsay.

Indian authorities have accused Harkat-ul-Ansar of being the parent group of Al Faran.

Mr. Mateen said: "The Al Faran, after the killing of their former chief Hamid Turki on Dec. 4, 1995, were disgusted and were roaming in the jungles of Wadwan when they contacted some local militants."

"And finally they decided to kill the four as they were a burden for them."

He said only four militants, who were presently "active" in Kashmir, knew "every detail" of the killings.

No breakthrough in Indo-Pakistan ties expected at Maldives summit

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A Pakistani diplomat said Wednesday his government was keen to normalise relations with arch-rival India but an upcoming meeting of the two premiers would not yield any major results.

"It is only taking place on the fringes of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit," Qazi Ashraf Jahangir, Pakistan's ambassador to India, told reporters here.

Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral has said he would hold talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, when they meet for the two-day SAARC summit beginning on May 12 in Male in the Maldives.

Mr. Jahangir said the Kashmir issue needed to be addressed first for the bilateral talks to proceed smoothly.

"Kashmir is a live problem ... unless we deal with

this problem, we will not be able to create the right ambience for other talks on trade and culture."

Kashmir has been disputed by both India and Pakistan, which have fought two of their three wars over the Himalayan state.

Indian and Pakistani officials have refused to speculate whether the two prime ministers would discuss the Kashmir dispute.

Though official talks between the two nations have resumed after a three year silence, attempts to find a solution to Kashmir have been slow.

Mr. Jahangir also rejected a Kashmiri militant demand for independence, saying it did not fall within the 1948 United Nations resolution that calls for a plebiscite to decide whether Kashmir should be part of India or Pakistan.

He said calls by Kashmiri

separatist leaders to participate in talks between New Delhi and Islamabad were premature.

"Talks between India and Pakistan are bilateral. They can not include Kashmiris," he said.

However, Mr. Jahangir did admit that once the talks between India and Pakistan progressed, the aspirations of the Kashmiri people would have to be considered.

India, which administers the southern two-thirds of Kashmir, accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim separatists in its zone of the divided Himalayan territory.

Islamabad denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to the anti-Indian rebellion in Kashmir, which has left more than 20,000 people dead in the frontier Himalayan state.

Kohl arrives in New Zealand for 2-day visit

WELLINGTON (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl arrived in New Zealand Wednesday as part of a mission to strengthen his government's links with Asia-Pacific countries and explore business opportunities.

Mr. Kohl's two-day visit is the first to New Zealand by a German chancellor. He is accompanied by a 13-member delegation of leading business representatives.

Mr. Kohl arrived in New Zealand's capital city of Wellington and is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Jim Bolger. Re-

serve Bank of New Zealand Governor Don Brash told Reuters he would meet Mr. Kohl shortly.

Mr. Kohl will also take part in a meeting between government ministers and the German business delegation Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Bolger this week said he expected Mr. Kohl's visit to boost New Zealand's profile in Germany.

"We look to Germany as the anchor of economic growth and trade liberalisation in the European Union, with whom our two-way trade last year was just under \$8 billion," Mr. Bolger said.

"Germany is a close diplomatic ally in areas ranging from the environment to disarmament. I expect to discuss all these areas with him. New Zealand's profile in Germany can expect to receive a significant boost as a result of the chancellor's visit."

The German government is promoting trade liberalisation in the face of opposition from its own farmers and has supported New Zealand's efforts to maintain access to the European market for its butter and sheepmeat exports.

Both nations have a strong interest in gains made dur-

ing the GATT Uruguay round on free trade.

Mr. Bolger is expected to put gentle pressure on Mr. Kohl to liberalise air services between their two countries. Germany, on the other hand, is seeking support for a permanent position on an expanded Security Council at the United Nations.

Mr. Bolger said he would also discuss political and economic reform with Mr. Kohl.

"Our MMP (mixed member proportional electoral) system is based largely on the system developed in Germany. I'm certain we will exchange views," he said.

Rebels ambush India patrol; 18 dead

AGARTALA, India (R) — Separatist tribal guerrillas ambushed a security patrol in northeastern India Wednesday and shot dead 17 paramilitary soldiers and a policeman, state police said.

"A group of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) militants this morning ambushed a central reserve police force patrol party and killed 17 CRPF personnel and a state policeman," Police Superintendent Bibutu Chaudhury told Reuters in the capital of Tripura state, Agartala.

Three paramilitary soldiers were critically wounded in the attack, which occurred in southern Tripura's Nabinbazar area at 8:30 a.m. (0300 GMT). The

NLFT is an outlawed guerrilla group.

The state government asked the army and paramilitary troops to launch a search operation for the insurgents, Mr. Chaudhury said.

State Home (Interior) Minister Samar Chaudhury later told reporters: "The government will take stern action against all the insurgent outfits."

In February, a different group of tribal guerrillas, the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), killed at least 50 people in west Tripura, setting houses ablaze and leaving thousands homeless.

The federal government then granted sweeping shoot-on-sight powers to army troops deployed in the thickly wooded northeast-

ern state and authorised army and paramilitary reinforcements to arrest and indefinitely detain suspects.

Last July, the ATTF issued a statement warning Bengali settlers to leave the state, which shares an 840-kilometre border with Bangladesh to the west.

The state's Indigenous tribal population has been reduced to a minority by Bengali Hindu immigrants who dominate local politics and the economy.

Tribal militants have been pursuing a campaign seeking a separate state for 17 years.

More than 2,000 people were killed in the region's worst ethnic riots in June 1980.

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Director General:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Bitter pills

THE GOVERNMENT in the past few months, has taken a number of economic and financial measures that aim at reinvigorating and liberalising the economy. Regrettably, though, the public's reaction to the new policies was negative, full of complaints, criticisms and disapproval. Even economic writers, columnists and intellectuals failed to see the benefits that these new policies would result in. Ending government fixing of prices and near flotation of interest rates coupled with reduction in customs and liberalisation of foreign exchange regulations are all steps that are meant to end a superficial state of affairs. Writers and commentators were divided between those who disapproved and wanted an immediate return to the system of fixing prices and for higher cash liquidity in the market, and those who were only full with praise of the new measures but without explaining how the market forces would better determine the behaviour of consumers. No one bothered to go beyond the personal view or beyond a specific topic to look at the whole picture and to evaluate the measures beyond personal or sectoral gains.

The basis of the new policies is that there is an escape for Jordan, like all other developing countries, from joining the process of globalisation, entering into a partnership with Europe and joining the World Trade Organisation. As such, the measures taken to put the country into the new era of market economy are inevitable steps and should be accepted.

Similarly, the chronic problem of balance of payments deficit remains a major constraint and a headache for the financial authorities which have no choice but to put into motion the adjustment agreement signed with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Consequently, whether the measures win public approval or not the Jordanian government has no choice but to try to narrow the balance of payments gap without negatively influencing the reforms in the "market economy" track.

Based on these arguments, the only safe and free exit is through the door called "consumer behaviour" whereby people and the market forces will interact and adjust to the needs of each other.

Hence, instead of criticising or praising the measures that were taken or will be made, writers and economists should analyse them and make projections on their future effects on the economy and people.

We should all remember that governments everywhere in the developing countries and especially in the former Communist bloc managed their economies in superficial ways that were meant to fool people into believing that all matters were alright when they were not. In this age of globalism, lack of foreign aid, free zones, economic alliances and open markets, these policies will not do. Peoples and nations will have to swallow the bitter pill of correcting all the ills that resulted from old practices.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT WAS most logical for Jordan to cancel an event for the commemoration of the seven Israeli school girls killed last March in Bakoura because Jordan feels Israel does not give any regard to its peace treaty with Jordan and is not interested in implementing its provisions, particularly the part which provides for 50 million cubic metres of water to be pumped to Jordan, said an editorial in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. The paper said that when Jordan embarked on the peace process, it was sure that it will be based on U.N. resolutions and would bring about a lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. But Israel's practices, its refusal to comply with the requirements for a permanent and just peace on the various Arab-Israeli tracks and its refusal to implement the peace treaty's provisions and the other Jordanian-Israeli agreements, make the Jordanian people feel deeply disappointed, noted the paper. It said that when Jordan embarked on the path of peace, it was hoping that the Jewish state will finally give up the occupied Arab lands and desist from acts that provoke the Arabs and cause increased tension in the region, but it turned out that Israel is persistent in pursuing acts of aggression and repression, and continues to delay the implementation of agreements with the Palestinians, as well as Jordan, and continues to place obstacles in the path of peace.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily said Wednesday that the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) is clearly facing financial difficulties and cannot cater to the services it had committed itself to offer to the Palestinian refugees unless the donor nations continue to supply funds. Mohammad Barhoumeh said the agency's difficulties have prompted its commissioner general, Peter Hansen, to issue an appeal for a \$50 million sum — the amount of the deficit in UNRWA's budget. Noting that the number of the refugees is growing steadily every year, the writer said that the United Nations, which has so far failed to find a solution to the refugees problems, is duty bound to allocate funds for UNRWA's services, especially at this moment when the Israelis continue to reject any idea of repatriating the refugees. The writer also noted that the Palestine National Authority and the governments of the other Arab states hosting Palestinian refugees are doing what they can to alleviate the displaced people's sufferings, but the world community bears the prime responsibility for their ordeal as long as Israel continues to occupy the Arab lands and deprive the Palestinians of the right to return to their homeland.

The View from Academia

The type of learning we need

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

GENERALLY SPEAKING, learning is divided into two types: cognitive and affective. According to John J. Sparkes, cognitive learning includes knowledge, skills, understanding and know-how, while affective learning includes motivation, attitudes and values.

Our students, at the school level and within the context of our present-day Arabic culture, do a lot better when it comes to the cognitive than when it comes to the affective.

As for knowledge (which is roughly defined as "information that has been memorised and can be recalled in answer to a question"), our students generally do well, for our curricula provide them with a great deal of knowledge. Our syllabi are still largely information-based. Over the past few years, we have been having two reservations (and we have been ascribing remedies to them) regarding the imparting of knowledge to our students. The first has to do with where our students stand in relation to knowledge (they memorise it without digesting it properly and thus they do not use it to their advantage), and the second has to do with the type of information that is communicated to them (much of it — some, at least — is either irrelevant or useless).

With respect to skills (a skill is defined as "a complex sequence of actions which has become so routinised that it is performed almost automatically"), there has been a tendency over the past few years — at private as well as

public schools — to focus on the development of skills. While skills were neglected for a long time, at present they are receiving increased attention. And there are stories of success here and there, at this or that school.

With regard to "understanding" (which is defined as "the capacity to use explanatory concepts creatively in problem-solving") our students are presently being trained in this art, though much remains to be desired still.

Regarding know-how (which is defined as "a problem-solving capability, acquired through experience") our schools and educational institutions have become fully aware of it and are exerting good efforts in this direction.

With regard to these four domains of cognitive learning, we should emphasise, the picture is not bright yet. However, the increased awareness of them and of the need to do something about them is assuring indeed. Almost everyone these days, in other words, is talking about the importance of endowing students with relevant knowledge (and through relevant means), with relevant skills, with relevant understanding and with relevant know-how.

When it comes to learning at the affective level, the picture is still disappointing. Even though there are some who talk about the need to develop our students' motivation, attitudes, and values, there is not enough real awareness and enough enthusiasm to do something about this crucial type of learning. Worse, we do not have, as yet, (or

we have not come up as yet with) mechanisms and methodologies through which we can teach our students effectively at the affective level.

I would say that the real problem in the Arab World of today lies not so much at the level of knowledge, skills, understanding and know-how (those all can be taken care of: acquired, developed, imported, hired, etc.) but at the level of motivation, attitudes and values. A great deal of the inefficiency, mediocrity of performance and failure to be effective is due to lack of enthusiasm and commitment, negative or unhealthy attitudes and poor or lax values.

If our students, in the various stages of education, do not do well, it is primarily due to lack of motivation (many of our students are not eager, enthusiastic and committed to learning) and to the take-it-easy attitudes and moral values. If our employees and workers in the various sectors and spheres do not live up to our expectations, it is also because of lack of motivation, and the same take-it-easy attitudes and moral values.

What this means is that our educational institutions, officials, experts and researchers have to focus more, from now on, on the affective (not just the cognitive) dimension of learning. It has to be taken more seriously as a goal, first. Second, effective methods of teaching and means of learning have to be devised to make students develop the right kind of motivation, attitudes and values. These are a must at this point in time.

Public discord and private frustration between Egypt and the U.S. increasing

By Steve Rodan

Reprinted from
The Jerusalem Post

ROSE EL Youssef is the magazine of Egypt's liberal elite and every Sunday it appears with a diet of juicy conspiracy stories, cutting cartoons and an occasional interview.

On April 13, the subject of interview was the supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Muslim fundamentalist group. In this interview, the fundamentalist leader, Masbhor, as he is commonly known, called on the government to purge Christians from the military and called for them to be forced to pay a religious tax once levied on non-Muslim minorities.

In Washington, U.S. officials monitoring Egypt cringed. The interview, they said, is the latest ammunition for the growing number of critics in Congress who want to see U.S. aid to Cairo cut on the grounds that the government of President Hosni Mubarak is drifting further away from American interests and no longer shares a common regional agenda.

"Over the past few years, public discord and private frustration between Egypt and the United States have increased," says a new study of the Washington Institute of Near East Policy called "Building for Security and Peace in the Middle East: An American Agenda."

"At times, these tensions reflect clear policy differences based on the national interests of the two countries; at other times they mirror broader frustration within the two societies. For more than a year, key members of Congress and their aides have been quietly warning Mubarak and his foreign minister, Amr Mousa, that their hostility towards Israel and Cairo's opposition to many areas of U.S. policy in the Middle East are endangering the \$2.1 billion in aid Egypt receives from the U.S."

In January, the heads of the Appropriations Subcommittee that deals with foreign aid in the Senate and House, Mitch McConnell and Sonny Callahan, conveyed this message to Mubarak during their visit to Cairo.

Congressional aides who monitor Egypt said that did not help. They said Mubarak's visit to Washington last month failed to improve U.S.-Egyptian relations. So now, the congressional warning is becoming public as Republicans and Democrats on key congressional committees are warning of a break with Egypt.

The lightning rod of criticism came at a hearing, on

April 10, of the House International Relations Committee. House committee chairman Benjamin Gilman, a New York Republican, set the tone when he contrasted the Mubarak's government behaviour over the last six months with its signing of the peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

"The latest example of discord occurred most recently, when under Egyptian leadership, the Arab League recommended that its member states cease normalising relations with Israel and restore the old economic boycott," Gilman said. "Egypt's leadership role in that vote puzzles and dismays many of its friends in the United States."

U.S. and Israeli officials agreed that Egypt had insisted that Palestinian Authority chief Yasser Arafat reject compromises that would have led to an accord. At one point, Mubarak ordered his diplomats to try to remove the word "reciprocity" from the agreement, which Israel had inserted to demand that the Palestinians fulfill their commitments. At another point, he declared on Egyptian television that he would oppose parts of the Hebron draft deal.

Cairo's turnaround came only during the final 24 hours of negotiations, U.S. officials said, when President Bill Clinton intervened to ensure that the agreement was

chief political adviser Osama Al Baz.

Mousa's rise up the political ladder in the early 1990s became apparent during the heady days of the Middle East peace process, when Israel was negotiating accords with Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians. Mousa used virtually every forum to warn against purported Israeli plans to dominate the region and rejected the proposals of then foreign minister Shimon Peres for economic integration and regional security cooperation.

"His ability is in his rhetoric," a leading Egyptian analyst, who did not want to be identified, said. "In Egypt, we call him the actor." Mousa has

and Africa. "From an American point of view, it does not get any better than Mubarak," he told the congressional hearing. "In fact Mubarak is criticised at home for being too eager to accommodate American interests."

Baz's goal, diplomats said, was to position Egypt as the Arab country leading the peace process and any development effort in the region. He also sought to play down differences with Israel and stressed dialogue over confrontation.

Last week, Baz told a Saudi newspaper that the construction of Har Homa in southeastern Jerusalem does not violate the Oslo accords.

In the end, however,

since I do not think that the American taxpayer can be expected to continue the level of aid to Egypt that we have undertaken for years in the light of a pattern of policies hostile to U.S. foreign-policy interests."

Lantos' frustration is shared by several leading American Jewish groups. At the Gilman hearing, Anti-Defamation League national Director Abe Foxman submitted a file of antisemitic cartoons in the Egyptian media and called for a cut of \$100 million in aid to Egypt until the Egyptian government is "ready to speak out to combat this evil" and normalise relations with Israel. Foxman was later joined by the Zionist Organisation of America, which called for a significant reduction of U.S. aid to Egypt.

In the background, watching the proceedings in Congress, is Israel and its advocates in Washington. In the past, key members of Congress privately acknowledged that Israeli lobbying helped sway their votes in favour of continued aid to Egypt. Now many in Congress are urging Israel to agree to an aid cut in 1998 so that U.S. lawmakers can finally significantly reduce and restructure aid to Egypt, particularly in military aid.

Many in Congress have privately expressed concern over Egypt's military buildup and currently are eyeing Cairo's attempt to purchase two submarines at a cost of up to \$1 billion.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel would accept a cut in U.S. aid, but Israeli officials remain ambivalent about what that would mean for Egypt. A Foreign Ministry report drafted in 1995 called on the government to lobby against U.S. aid to Egypt as long as Cairo remains hostile to Israel's effort to normalise relations with the Arab World.

Peres, who was at that time foreign minister, rejected the report and a senior official said the Netanyahu government has not changed Israeli policy towards Egypt.

Indeed, the prime minister, unlike his predecessor, sees Egypt as the key to any Middle East peace process and wants to secure Cairo first in any alliance in the region, the official said.

"The prime minister finds himself in the position, where despite the constant attacks against him, he is defending Egypt against any cut in U.S. aid," the official said. "But today I think there is a real problem for the Egyptians in Washington that is beyond our relations with them."



reached.

The Clinton administration refused to send either a White House or State Department representative, including U.S. ambassador to Egypt Edward Walker, to testify at the House hearing. Joe Stork of Human Rights Watch said he was not surprised by the administration's refusal. Quoting a State Department official, Stork said that while preparing for Mubarak's 1996 visit to Washington, the White House advised the State Department not to send a file on Egypt's human-rights record because Clinton would not raise the subject with his guest.

U.S. officials and Middle Eastern diplomats said Mubarak's apparent rift with Washington appears to reflect the increasing influence of Mousa. After he assumed office in 1982, in the wake of the assassination of President Anwar Sadat, Mubarak appeared receptive to a range of views.

He was said to have been particularly attentive to his

backers, who share the foreign minister's confidence that Egypt's future does not depend on the U.S. They point to a robust economy, which in 1996 grew by a rate of nearly 6 per cent. Tourism was up 24.3 per cent in 1996 over the previous year, with close to 3.9 million visitors. U.S. companies, including the Amoco Corporation, have been exploring for natural gas in the Delta region and executives said they have discovered a basin with enough natural gas to make Egypt a major exporter.

"Mousa has seen his main priority as ensuring Egypt's role as the leader of the Middle East," a Middle East diplomat said. "That role is threatened by Peres's version of an integrated Middle East."

Mahmoud Fahdi, a specialist on Egypt at Washington's Georgetown University and an Egyptian native, said many in Washington simply do not understand Cairo's policy of maintaining leadership in the Arab World

Mousa's pan-Arab approach won out. Egypt began to ignore U.N. sanctions on Iraq and Libya and the Egyptian pro-government press attacked U.S. policy on a nearly daily basis. Last September, Mubarak termed the U.S. missile strike against Iraq meant to protest Saddam Hussein's incursion into the Kurdish enclave in the north, a violation of international law.

Rep. Tom Lantos, a California Democrat, has been more frustrated with Egypt than most congressmen. Last year, he sent Mubarak a letter warning him that Egypt's anti-U.S. behaviour would hurt his relations with Congress.

That message did not sink in. "Far from an improvement in Egyptian attitudes towards U.S. policy goals," Lantos said, "there has been a further deterioration. And I would like to serve public notice that it is my intention, when the issue of aid to Egypt comes before us, (to) reserve the option of proposing a cut in that aid

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Weekender

Jordan Times, Thursday, May 8, 1997 **A**

Society on the Move

Low profile is the strategy

On the Royal Kaseb Al Kitab (marriage contract) that has surprised and delighted the country — that of HRH Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammad to HRH Princess Areej Ghazi — we can report that the Princess obtained a B.A. and M.A. from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She is currently working towards her Ph.D. in education, also in the United States. Prince Ghazi is a graduate of Harrow in England. He later obtained his B.A. from Princeton University in the U.S. and his Ph.D. in philosophy from Cambridge University in the U.K. Prince Ghazi is cultural secretary to His Majesty King Hussein. The wedding celebration will be announced on a later date.

JOINT INTERESTS: One piece of news that had eyebrows raising last week was the official appointment of an honorary consul for the Congo in Amman. Other than enhancing general diplomatic ties, the big question was what could be the other benefits to such an arrangement. According to prominent businessman Ghassan Talhouni, who was named the honorary consul, the opportunities



Ghassan Talhouni

and benefits are many. Mr. Talhouni, who graduated with a B.A. from Santa Clara University in California and a masters in foreign service from Georgetown University, cites the signing of a transportation protocol between the Republic of the Congo and Jordan which stipulates that the two countries will seek to open a direct air route between Amman and Brazzaville, on the Congo River. In addition, the protocol calls for sending Congolese pilots to train at the Royal Jordanian Air Academy. The transportation protocol was signed between then Minister of Transportation Nasser Lawzi and his Congolese counterpart, Victor Tamba Tamba, last February. The Congolese economy depends first and foremost on the country's oil industry. The Congo is the fourth largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa. There is also development of forestry and of commercial agriculture. With a population of 2.4 million the Central African country is in need of skilled labour and professionals, particularly in the area of health (pharmaceuticals and primary healthcare) as the average life expectancy of the Congolese is 47.56. Mr. Talhouni sees great potential out of the Congo for helping to generate significant income for Jordan.

GOING FULL CIRCLE: It took a nearly a year, but the U.S. embassy in Amman has got its new deputy chief of mission (DCM), who, incidentally, is not new to Amman. She is Janet Sanderson, former minister counsellor for economic affairs at the U.S. embassy in Cairo, who arrived in Amman late this week. Ms. Sanderson fills the position vacated by Robert Beecroft who was appointed U.S. special envoy to Bosnia-Herzegovina late

last spring. The new DCM graduated from the College of William and Mary in Virginia in 1977 with high honours in government and obtained her masters degree in national security studies from the Naval War College in 1993. Ms. Sanderson began her foreign service career in 1978. Her first assignment was as vice consul and economic officer at the American embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, followed by assignments in Israel from 1980-82 as aid liaison officer, and petroleum officer in Kuwait from 1982-84. Back at the State Department from 1984 through 1988, Ms. Sanderson was appointed as country officer for Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, and later as desk officer for the U.S. mission to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). She was assigned to the embassy in Amman in 1989 as economic counsellor. From 1992-1993, Ms. Sanderson attended a senior training programme for State Department officials in Rhode Island. In 1993 she was assigned to the embassy in Cairo first as deputy economic counsellor and financial economist, then as minister counsellor for economic affairs. Ms. Sanderson is the recipient of several of her department's highest awards including the Herbert A. Simon Award for International Economic Performance. In 1993 she was awarded the Superior Honour Award for her work in Jordan during the Gulf War. Ms. Sanderson speaks Arabic, Bengali and French.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED: Jordan Radio and Television (JRTV) is committing itself to a new endeavour — it is establishing a web site on the Internet. The address, although not yet up and operating, is

jrtv.com. The array of information will include data on Jordan Radio, Jordan Television and the Jordan Satellite Channel. All their programmes will be posted on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Users will be able to log on and obtain updated news items several times a day from the Jordan Radio/English News Programme. The organisers also plan to feature a home issue or activity every month. The site will be operated 24-hours a day by a staff of six professionals. And JRTV will be open to questions and comments. The site is being set up by ACCESS, and the folks at radio and T.V. are very excited about the project.

DIE DEUTSCHE WOCHE: German speakers may be interested in the University of Jordan Department of Modern Languages staging of German Week beginning May 11. Speaking at the opening event will be Dean of the Faculty of Arts Abdul Rahman Shahin, German Ambassador Peter Meude, Austrian Ambassador Michael Stigelbauer and Swiss Ambassador Gion Federico Pedotti. On the second day there will be a discussion on the activities of several German organisations represented in Amman, including the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and the German Development Corporation (GTZ). The events on the programme will be conducted mainly in English.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Kidney transplants flourish in Pakistan

KARACHI (AFP) — Hundreds of Pakistanis who have had kidney transplants flocked to a playground last weekend to deliver a message to their countrymen — donate organs to save lives.

Organisers said the event, the first of its kind in the country, marked the start of a nationwide campaign to remove a general "misconception" that kidney donation was hazardous.

Some 3,000 people have received a new lease of life in Pakistan since 1985 when transplantation was introduced there.

"We want to spread awareness that it is safe to donate," said a professor in medicine, Anwar Naqvi, the main sponsor of the social campaign.

Dr. Naqvi, who teaches at the Sind Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT), said the success rate of transplants here was 87 per cent

and donors had been living a normal life. On Sunday, colourfully attired men and women with transplants competed in various athletic events including jogging and javelin throwing to demonstrate their fitness to an audience of thousands of people. The organisers plan to send a contingent to the World Transplant Games scheduled for

September in Sydney. Dr. Naqvi said there were around 12,000 renal failures every year in Pakistan, half of them needing transplants. "But there are hardly enough donations," he said. Transplant surgery is carried out at public and private hospitals in Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore. The cost is 350,000 rupees (\$8,750) at private hospitals and half of

that at a public facility. Dr. Naqvi said about 500 of the transplants were done at SIUT and they were all free of charge. There is strong prejudice, including opposition from the Islamic clergy, against cadaveric transplants in Pakistan, for which no law has yet been enacted. "Only kidneys are donated and that too by relatives

only, whereas in cases of liver or heart only cadaveric transplantation is possible," Dr. Naqvi said. "The body of the dead has to go back to God and nobody has the right to take an organ. It will be devil's work," cleric Abdur Rehman said, echoing a dominant view in the religious lobby. "We are hoping to get a legal cover and change in

Abbreviation mania strikes U.N.

By Anne Penketh
Agence France Presse

UNITED NATIONS — When the SG goes to the GA at the U.N., nobody here is surprised. Because everybody at the United Nations appears to be at ease with the abbreviations in U.N.-speak. They all know that U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan (the SG) is highly likely to show up at a General Assembly (GA) session from time to time.

"Are you covering the CSD?" a Canadian diplomat recently asked a reporter who thought he might have been referring to a new disease affecting cattle brains. But a quick check showed that the Commission on Sustainable Development was meeting in a U.N. basement hall. The top U.N. financial officer, Joseph Connor, at a news conference last week uttered the following without any of his listeners batting an eyelid: "Forty seven per cent of non-programme costs are direct administration."

For political reasons, the force could not refer to Macedonia, the former Yugoslav republic known as FYROM at the United Nations, and so the U.N. Preventive Deployment Force or the tongue-twister UNPREDEP was born. In French, the result was the even less auspicious-sounding FORDEPRENU. Other U.N. staff recall a now infamous April Fool message faxed by Mr. Tharoor from the Peacekeeping Department to then-U.N. special envoy for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi. Mr. Tharoor made some new suggestions for acronyms for U.N. missions in the former Yugoslavia following the withdrawal of UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force). For Croatia, there was WIMP, the Weapons Interception and Monitoring Project. UNFICILAF, the United Nations Force for the Implementation of Grand Legal Exhortations While Acting Feebly would serve in Bosnia. And finally, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the UNFYROM, or United Nations Force for Yielding to Ridiculous and Otiose Mandates.

Titled Malaysia trips up the unsuspecting

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — There's a story about a Malaysian man who booked an airline ticket for a trip abroad using his Malay honorific "Tan Sri" only to miss an important message when the airline paged him asking for a "Mr. Sri."

Malaysia has an intricate system of honorifics used before given names. Roughly equivalent to the title "lord" in Britain, tan sri is just one of the titles in a list that also includes tengku, tun, datuk and datuk seri. Women have their own variants.

Datuk is at the bottom rung of the title ladder. Some people have more than one title, becoming for example, a tan sri datuk or a Tengku Tan Sri.

Add that to the traditional Malay or Chinese name which already is made up of three or more parts and a distinguished personage's name could take up a whole line on a page.

"It takes some getting used to," said a diplomat at a Western embassy in Kuala Lumpur. But, "from a diplomatic point of view, it's something we've got to get right."

Despite decades of titling — multicultural Malaysia became independent in 1957 — few authorities

All 14 states bestow titles

Mr. Abdullah, who served as chief of protocol under two of Malaysia's kings and as Malaysia's representative in London, noted that it was difficult to keep track, as all 14 states are empowered to hand out titles.

The honours are granted annually on the birthday of the states' sultans. Malaysia's king, who is drawn from among nine state rulers on a rotating basis, also bestows titles on his birthday.

While some of the higher titles like tun have limits — it is believed there can only be 25 at a time — there are

no curbs on the numbers of datuk.

"It's becoming difficult to find someone without a title," commented a Malaysian journalist. Even foreigners can be, and have been, conferred titles.

Flip through the annual reports of almost any of Malaysia's companies and the chances are that its head, not to mention directors, will all bear titles before their names.

The proliferation of titled businessmen and women has added a new dimension for analysts and financial journalists. "Of course, when you meet them the very first time, you have to know what (title) they are," said the head of research at a foreign brokerage firm.

Mr. Abdullah says he doesn't insist on using his title. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad prefers to be called doctor, a title he earned as a physician before he became a fulltime politician.



Selangor Sultan Azlan Shah (right) confers a Datuk title, which is at the bottom rung of the title ladder, to deputy minister of international trade and industry, Kerk Choo Ting, at the state palace in conjunction with his birthday. Despite decades of titling — multicultural Malaysia became independent in 1957 — few authorities exist on the subject, and even the numbers of titled Malaysians are unknown (Renter photo)



Alexander McQueen — British designer of the year

HAVING DOMINATED the recent London and Paris collections, 27-year-old Alexander McQueen has been crowned as British Designer of the Year at the prestigious Lloyds Bank Fashion Awards held recently at London's Royal Albert Hall.

Here, Alexander McQueen is pictured backstage after receiving his award, flanked by models wearing clothes from his inspired collection.

It has been a memorable season for the brilliant young designer who received tumultuous applause from the packed audience as he collected his award. McQueen has also been appointed as designer-in-chief at the Paris couture house of Givenchy, allowing fellow British designer John Galiano to take over at the equally legendary House of Christian Dior.

McQueen pipped Galiano and Vivienne Westwood (both previous winners) to the award. Many say he is one of the most talented designers working out of this country now. And between them, McQueen and Galiano have put Britain back on the map as an international fashion capital.

The young maverick designer also thrilled audiences recently at the second of this year's London Fashion Week events. He transformed the austerity of the Royal Horticultural Society's grey halled building into a 100-metre swimming pool to produce an unusual and spectacular catwalk show. British supermodels Stella Tennant and Kate Moss were among those splashing through the water in his creations.

Who needs to know?

By Jean Claude Elias

THE GREAT physicist Albert Einstein once said: "One of the most wonderful feelings man can experience is mystery" — he was admiring the stars in the firmament, on a clear summer's night. Coming from a man who has contributed some of the most important scientific discoveries of this century, in physics and mathematics, the statement sounds contradictory at first. Einstein however was also known for his human qualities and his common sense, and not only for his scientific genius. Although his very own Theory on Relativity led to man's manipulation of atomic energy, he was actually the first to warn against its dangers.

Last week Internet deprived me from enjoying an annual TV event that I usually look forward to watch with anticipation. Even if the kind of music it features is not exactly my type, the Eurovision Song Contest is a show I truly enjoy watching with family and friends. The most thrilling part of it being the second one, when each country casts its vote and everybody is dying to see if the song they have liked most is actually going to win.

While surfing on the Internet one day before the show (I must assume that by now and after a few Chip Talks on the World Wide Web, there is no need to explain the term "surfing" anymore), I found a Web site on the Eurovision. I couldn't resist the temptation and entered the site. It was extremely attractive, well coloured and most of all very well structured. I found the list of the countries that were participating in the Contest's 1997 edition, with full details on the order of appearance, on the song titles, performers' names, composers' names and even a 30-second sample of each song that one can download and listen to. Each Internaut (a person using the Internet) also had the possibility to cast his or her own vote for a "pre-contest" forecast. I noticed that up to a day before the actual event, 41,000 Internauts had visited the site and voted. Other data was also available such as the complete list of the winners since 1956 and other interesting statistics about

chip talk



the contest.

As informative as it may have been, the data I gathered from the Web ruined the surprise element I usually enjoy when watching the show that JTV always brings us live. And although a simple TV show cannot be compared to the beauty of the stars in the sky, Einstein's thought came once again to my mind.

Why do we need all this information? It has become like a cheap commodity that information providers desperately try to sell us. Is there room in our brain memory cells for information we will never need to use? So much is available on networks like Internet, in an easily accessible, inexpensive format that one could spend a lifetime reading it without really knowing why. Of course, there is an undeniable cultural element in all that. But cases like what I've just mentioned deprive us from natural, spontaneous enjoyment.

These days you can learn everything about a country, in full sight, colours and sound, from the Web — to the point that if you go to visit it, there is not much left for you to discover. You may even wonder why you ever took the trouble to travel. We all know how irritating it can be when someone tells you how the book you are reading or the movie you are going to see tomorrow, ends. That's exactly what the Internet and all related information technology systems sometimes do to us.

But what will it mean for us?

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen



WHAT WILL the future hold for us as we helplessly lie in our troubled little corner of the globe?

Will any of our culture be recognisable in 20 years' time? How many people will still read books? How many people will still visit theatres and art galleries? How many do actually do any of these things right now?

Will anything even remain of the old shared certainties that are broadcasting, literature, heritage? What will digital terrestrial television mean for us? Will we even remember black and white television? Will we even remember making copies with carbon paper?

What will the information revolution do for our culture? What will artificial intelligence mean for us? And what will the Internet mean for us? Can we ever expect to have it in every household, like the rest of the world?

What will not having our own Formula 1 racing track mean for us? What will having one mean for Beirut? And why can't a rich racing fan propose that Amman should plan to construct its own track given that we are so fond of speed? Does anybody even care about this?

What will the science of cloning mean for us? What did Dolly the Sheep mean for us? What will cloning do for our ideas of self, identity, and soul?

What will the first sunrise of the new millennium mean for us? What will the remaining years of the 20th century mean for us?

What will teachers and artists mean for us? What do they mean now?

What will democracy mean for us? What will the increase in population mean for us? What will the environment mean for us?

What will a "national sense of direction" mean for us?

And what will selfishness and "me too"-ism mean for us?

What will a slowly disappearing welfare state mean for us?

What will the dependency culture we suffer from mean for us?

What will social change mean for us?

What will teenagers dealing to drugs and guns mean for us?

What will the encroachment of the World Trade Organisation mean for us?

What will being allies of the "Greatest Nation on Earth" mean for us?

What will an uncaring and mismanaged privatised telecommunications company mean for us?

The song says that "Things can only get better," but what will this mean for us?

When can we expect to be saved?

The kick-start depends on young and caring people everywhere to speak out.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 8, 1997

3:30 The Holy Koran
3:35 Cartoon
4:00 Curiosity Show
4:30 They Came From Outer Space
4:50 American Basketball
5:25 Out Of This World
6:00 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Parenthood
8:00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:30 The American Chart Show
9:10 Kung Fu — The Legend Continues
10:00 News In English
10:25 Feature Film — Memphis Bella
Starring: Mathew Modin & Eric Stolz

7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
8:00 World Echo (Doc.)
8:30 Side Effects
9:10 Nautilus (Doc.)
10:00 News In English
10:25 One West Waikiki
11:25 Sisters

Monday, May 12, 1997

3:30 The Holy Koran
3:35 French Programme
4:00 The German Scene (Documentary)
4:25 Deep Water Haveo
4:50 The Ocean Girl
5:00 Extra Dimensions
6:00 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 One foot In The Grave
8:00 Discover Magazine
8:30 Murder She Wrote
9:10 Highlander
10:00 News In English
10:25 Under Suspicion
11:15 Cinder Path

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

3:30 Holy Koran
3:35 French Programme
4:00 Super Sport Follies
4:30 Dog House
5:00 Preserving For The Taste Of It (Doc.)
5:15 The Album Show
6:00 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Coach
8:00 Tilt 23.5
8:30 Encounter
9:10 Nature Of Things
10:00 News In English
10:25 Snowy River
11:15 Mission Impossible

Wednesday, May 14, 1997

3:30 Holy Koran
3:35 French Programme
4:00 America's Funniest People
4:25 Spell Binder
4:50 Forests Of The World (Doc.)
5:30 Border Town
6:00 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Grace Under Fire
8:00 World War II (Doc.)
8:30 Challenges
9:10 Spenser For Hire
10:00 News In English
10:25 Cobra
11:15 Hart To Hart

Friday, May 9, 1997

2:00 The Holy Koran
2:05 The Mask
2:35 Flintstones
3:00 Playabout + How To Draw Cartoon
3:20 French Programme
4:00 Winners Down Under
5:00 Documentary
5:30 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 America's Funniest Home Videos
8:00 The Health Show
8:30 Hawkeye
9:10 Power Of Dreams (Doc.)
10:00 News In English
10:20 Voice Of The Heart (P. 2 of 4)

Saturday, May 10, 1997

3:30 The Holy Koran
3:35 French Programmes
4:00 Gillene (Sports)
4:30 Innovation (Doc.)
4:50 Tilt 23.5
5:00 Blue Heelers
6:00 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Hangin' with Mr. Cooper
8:00 Magazine Zero One
8:30 Prism
9:10 Time Trax (Science Fiction)
10:00 News In English
10:25 MacGyver
11:15 Feature Film — My Science Project

Sunday, May 11, 1997

3:30 The Holy Koran
3:35 French Programme
4:00 The Global Family (Doc.)
4:25 Energy Express
4:50 Clear Water Big Fish (Doc.)
6:00 French Programmes
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 French Programme

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** I warn you against doing that.
Obathiroka min amal thalek.

** Let that be a warning to you.
Leyakon thalek ibratan laka.

** Turn this Arabic letter into English.
Tarjim hatha al-khitab ala al-ingleeziya.

** He annoys me at every turn.
Howa yudayeqoni fee koll lahtha.

** Doo't try your eyes with much reading.
La tajhid aynayka fil qira'a.

** Try this shirt on.
Qees hatha al-qamees.

** Don't trifle your time.
La tusref waqtaka suda.

** Touch me not!
La talmasni!

** He's touchy.
Howa saree al-ghadab.

** I've no time for discussion.
La waqta indi lil-munaqashah.

** He came behind time.
Ja'a mnta'akhran.

** Accident has thrown us together.
Laqad jama'atna as-sudaf.

JOKE

• THE DOORMAN hurried downstairs on hearing the owner of the car shouting: "They've robbed the steering wheel, the keyboard, the radio-cassette."
The moment the doorman reached the car, the owner said to him: "I'm awfully sorry, Uncle Osman, I've got into the car from the back door!"

PUZZLES

(A) HERE is a list of the surnames of EIGHT famous

people. Some of them are alive. Some are dead. You've got just ONE minute in which to write down all their first names.

1. KEATS.
2. NIXON.
3. PASTEUR.
4. BREZHNEV.
5. FREUD.
6. PICASSO.
7. MANDELA.
8. HITLER.

(B) INSERT THE MISSING NUMBER:

2	4	?	11	16
3	7	?	21	31

HAPPY DREAMS

• ARSON — An offer of a change for the better will soon come your way.

• EMBROIDERY — To do it yourself is a forecast of personal happiness and contentment, but to observe it being worked by others, or on garments, household items, or cloth is a warning that there is hidden opposition and deceit in your close circle.

• GIANT — A dream of being a giant yourself is warning you against any speculative ventures for the time being. Meeting a giant boldly is a promise of future success; killing a giant signifies an increase in material wealth; to see a giant trampling over others or pushing them aside indicates obstacles which you can overcome through determination and perseverance.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Is 'obverse' the front or back of a coin?
2. Where did coins originate?
3. What is meant by debasing coinage?
4. What was a slave coin?
5. Why do coins have milled edges?
6. What is bullion?
7. Of which country is the zloti the monetary unit?
8. The scalp of what bird was at one time used as money in America?

Want a varied life? Try becoming a bodyguard

BRUSSELS (R) — There is no such thing as a normal day for a bodyguard, and very few make the grade, according to former minder Francis Schoemans.

"I once had a mission to be a bodyguard for a group of Arabs and Jews — and you know how they hate each other," he said.

"There were 300 Jews on one side of the room and 300 Arabs on the other, with a few security guards and only a thin plastic curtain separating them. But there was absolutely no trouble."

"Then, on another occasion, I was bodyguard for a black American singer who was a bit crazy. I had trouble over my head all night," he said. "You can never tell."

Schoemans, middle-aged with dark glasses and a greying beard, has run his European Security Training Centre from a small, smoky office near the new European Parliament building in central Brussels for the past five years.

Most of the courses run by the school train security guards. Few go on to take the tough course to become a fully-fledged bodyguard — although at a total cost of 170,000 francs (\$5,000), the cost could provide one reason.

"We get applications from people who have seen Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston in Bodyguard. They all want to be

like Costner and to guard someone like Houston. They are non-starters," he said in an interview.

"Others come from the army — particularly the commandos — who have weapons training but little idea of what being a bodyguard means," he said.

"Many people call because they know how to fight. But that is not what a bodyguard is all about either," he said.

Before Schoemans accepts someone for training as a bodyguard they must first complete training as a security guard and be fully conversant in the use of handguns with a calibre of up to nine millimetres.

They are then interviewed to see if they are suitable candidates. "We are looking for a psychological profile. We don't want someone who is scared of trouble, but we also don't want someone who goes looking for it," he said. "Most of a bodyguard's work is preventative. It is mental."

The school's bodyguard training course lasts one month, with pupils working a 12-hour day, five days a week and facing an exam after 15 days to see if they may continue. Training covers theory, law, martial arts, shooting, driving and practical exercises out on the streets.

Even before starting, an applicant must be able to do 50 press-ups in 75 seconds followed by 10 chin-ups in 40 seconds, 50 squat jumps in 90 seconds and finally, 100 horizontal leg lifts in two minutes.

A one minute rest is allowed between each exercise. Students are also taught to shoot a pistol double-handed and single-handed.

They are taught to draw their weapon quickly from a concealed holster and fire accurately standing up, given that they are supposed to, if necessary, use themselves to cover their client.

Shooting while kneeling, lying, in crowds and at night without light is also covered.

But that, Schoemans said, is only a small part of the deal. The key is to anticipate trouble, try to avoid it if possible, but be able to handle it if necessary and make sure that the whereabouts of the nearest medical facilities are known.

"In one of the practical exercises the trainee is told he is to pick up his client from point A at a certain time and take him to B," he said.

"He has to work out the best route, work out alternatives in case of trouble or if the road is blocked, know where the nearest hospitals are, know police contacts, traffic ... a whole range of important elements," he added.

Once the trainee successfully

completes the course he is on his own.

"We find jobs for our trained security guards but not for our bodyguards. Once they leave here it is up to them to find employment," Schoemans said.

The graduates — almost exclusively men — must make contact with prospective employers and negotiate their own contracts.

Sometimes work will be for an hour or an evening. Other times it might be for a day, a week, six months or a year.

"Lots of different people want bodyguards for lots of different reasons," Schoemans said.

Sometimes it is for prestige, because of a perceived threat or because of a real threat.

"It is up to the bodyguard to find out when he is negotiating with the client. Obviously it will affect the fee," Schoemans said.

The fee varies according to the individual contract, its risk and its duration. But Schoemans said an average would be around 5,000 francs (\$140) an hour.

Why do it? There is the prestige and there is the money, according to Schoemans.

But it is not a job for someone looking for a long career. Schoemans reckons that on average a bodyguard should start thinking about finding another job when he reaches 40.

RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

'The Petra Tablets' — visual reflections by Mona Saudi on the poetry of Adonis

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

"HERE I am, for we are one, [the stone and I], carried by you to the first days of genesis, cleansed by the waters of the Jordan.... With you, I enter a world that stretches between stone and its kin. Man, its only boundaries are air and light...." excerpted from Adonis' *Petra Tablets*. The artist intervenes by saying: "The profoundness of meaning embodied in ex-pressinns like this really set me in motion, prompting me to combine the resulting feelings inside me with my own artistic background and my own research."

But far from being a swift exercise in perfunctory methodological application, the process of responding to such (and other) dimensions was to constitute a two-year journey of self-discovery in the life of Mona Saudi, at the end of which some twenty-five works reached completion. It is these works that are currently on display at the artist's semi-rustic stone house in Abdoun village. Indeed, the theme is immediately set upon entry into the scenic driveway, leading up to a circular gravel-path around a wild oak tree. Mature trees abound in the large garden adorned by time-weathered basalt urns and huge turn-

of-the-century ceramic jars. Relics that were once practical farm-tools lend a special old-world look to the garden; several raft-like wooden boards, embedded with numerous small jagged volcanic rocks (horse-drawn contraptions once used, face-down, to run over and separate wheat from wheat-sheaves following harvest).

By the time the viewer enters the charm that is the artist's personal living room, the atmosphere is well set for the exhibition; a theme uniting man with nature; stone, sand and earth. Ironically, however, the works in this exhibition were not originally intended for display. "I produced them as part of an internal need, like breathing, sleeping, eating. I simply must produce something every day; create. It was only after I created these works for myself that I decided to put them on display."

This particular series of work was created with Adonis' poetry in mind, specifically "The Petra Tablets." The artist is not a novice to this sort of symbiosis in art, for she has, on many occasions in the past, rendered personal interpretations of other people's literature. "Working for poetry has been a significant part of my collective artistic journey in life. Throughout

my life, I have thrived on poetry, and I read it just like I listen to music. Reading and internalising poetry is an absolute necessity for my existence; it refreshes the soul, the imagination and opens up pathways and vision-fields for creativity. Of the poets of the Arab World, few have inspired me like Adonis. Apart from his tremendous significance in the contemporary literary front and his enormous originality, I respond to his work so vividly because somehow, through it and by means of it, I am able to connect more acutely with my inner being with regard to creation, creativity, mysticism, the world, etc. It revives and rejuvenates all these sensibilities in me, and makes me want to work for such poetry."

The artist expounds that working for a poem is not the same as illustrating one. When she works for a poem, she is rendering a sort of recreation through the poem. Through the latter, she recreates her own art and establishes a sort of visual dialogue with that poetry. The resultant form of relationship between her work and that of the poet can best be encapsulated in the phenomenon of "interactive dynamic," not merely literary stimuli followed by a visual response. While both

the drawings and the poetry retain their independence, the manner in which they are presented in the visual rendition imbues them with a certain symbiotic relationship through which they each undergo some measure of reinvention. They are both reborn through this aesthetic and sublime alliance.

"I enjoy living with this poetry, using it and writing it again, calligraphically, as a background and indeed, as an integral part of the overall composition of linear lines that characterise many of my drawings in this series." The viewer at once notices the very bold dark silhouette-lines of the wholesome abstract figures in Saudi's drawings, achieved by the masterful application of Chinese ink on brush. The actual figures in the drawings bear a remarkable resemblance to many of the artist's marble and stone sculptures, for which she is regionally and internationally renowned. Broadly speaking, the many curvaceous and angular sub-components that aggregate to make up the overall shapes in the drawings tend towards vertical rectangularity. Most are squat rectangles, almost square, though a discernible few are elongated, narrow and highly ornate with recesses and protrusions, not much unlike totem-poles.

Negative spaces of all denominations, shapes and sizes characterise the drawings, and the latter bespeak very abstract expressionism, though some of the so-called sub-components can plausibly be identified as fish and birds. Other silhouette-lines and the vast free spaces they embody create the illusion of a female figure protectively and defensively clutching onto her offspring, with a haunting gaze frozen in stone for eternity. And yet a definitive human spirit is nonetheless captured therein, commanding more in the way of awe (due to its defiant stance) than pity for its inescapable predicament.

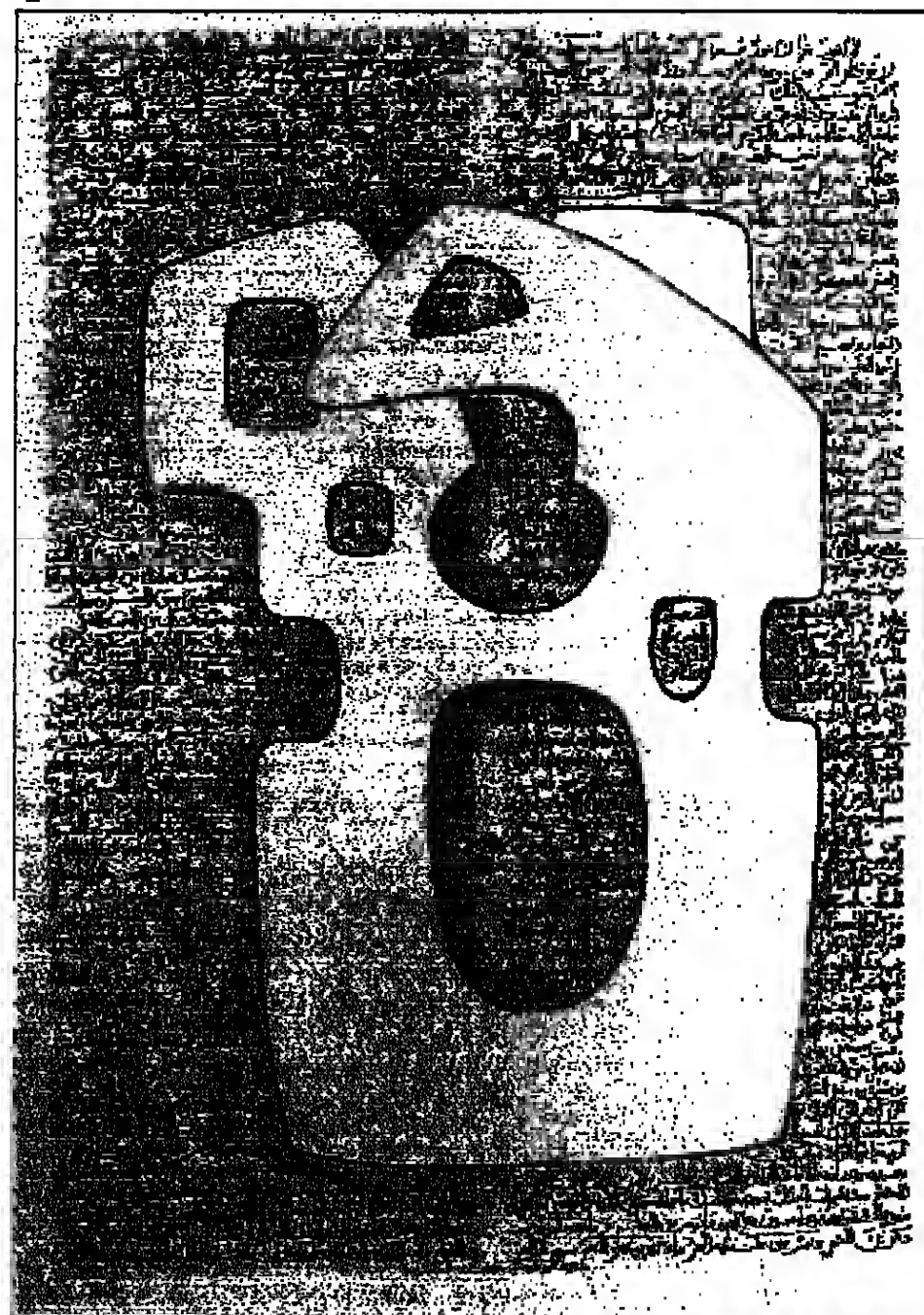
"In an attempt to achieve a certain effect that only the moment can dictate, I have detected a recurring pattern in my drawings, in which I seem to refrain from the use of colours. But whereas most of my drawings consequently turn out to be black, grey and white, I do use one particular colour quite abundantly. And it is an exception, but not one that corrupts the simplicity and poetic tranquillity of the work. Coffee! I hoil some coffee in a pot — regular Arabic coffee — and then use it like any paint-preparation, to impart a very delicate 'desert-like' hue to the work. In my opinion, it is one of the few elements that can serve the intended end," explains the artist.

Indeed, the usage of this unlikely organic-staple provides for a textural contrast to the potential severity of the "black-and-white-only"

formula, without being registered as a true colour in the consciousness of the viewer. Subliminally, however, a certain effect is registered, and can best be articulated in terms of the inexplicable sense of serenity and quiet awe one experiences by being in, and looking out onto a vast soft-earthen expanse of desert where one feels both welcome and safe. The viewer of these drawings, in arriving to this desert-allusion independently, then coincidentally remembers the theme of this artistic amalgam, "The Petra Tablets," along with all the sandy magic that the Nabatean name conjures. So powerful are some of the works, that long-vanished civilisations are recalled even to the dimmest and dullest of imaginations, convincingly alluded to by the totem-symbol imagery as well as by the sense of mysticism and importance generated by the poetic calligraphy. At precisely such a moment in the beholder's awareness and perception, does the artist's earlier assertion spring forth into relevance, that "I do work for the poem, not illustrations thereof."

In the opinion of this writer, however, the drawings in this series carry a certain limitation.... if indeed it can be put in such terms. They are not well-served — in terms of aesthetic or philosophical appeal — by a casual browse. A cursory glance by the "let's-see-what's-in-the-art-scene-this-week" sort of exhibition-trotter will reveal little of the intrinsic sophistication of the works. In that sense, the aforementioned limitation becomes the greatest asset of these drawings, for it enables them to carve out a more distinguished niche in the world of modern contemporary art and in the realm of discerning art-lovers. Art-viewers in this niche will recognise and appreciate — albeit to varying degrees — the special relationship painstakingly constructed between drawing and poem. Inevitably, it will mean something unique to each person because, invariably, our perceptions are the shapers of our realities. However, one does not get the feeling that the relationship is an any way forced or contrived, despite the obvious intricacy with which it has been put together.

Some of the works on display are completely free of calligraphy, but that is not to be equated with a situation of being devoid of poetry. "I allow each work to dictate the aesthetic equilibrium that accords it the most justice," explains the artist, "and I subsequently resist the temptation of forcing a background or a margin of 'poetry-in-calligraphy' simply to homogenise the works in the series. Each work is unique and creates its own moment, its own atmosphere, its own visual and semantic dialogue —



A drawing in Chinese ink on cotton paper with poetry by Adonis

and most importantly — its own equilibrium." It may be possible to deduce, from such disclosure that the overriding feature seems to be the attainment of a natural balance in the complex interplay between the various merging elements in each of the works.

Textural backgrounds figure prominently in Saudi's works, especially in those in which calligraphic text is absent. Apart from the desert-sand effect achieved by coffee-on-brush treatment, the humble pencil is put to good use in the creation of soft shades as well as nooks and crannies into which the natural light of the drawing diffuses. The calligraphic style used by Saudi in reproducing Adonis' poetry is a casual, free-banded one, with delightfully long and exaggerated points and ends. It combines a style that is of the curvaceous school with one that is characterised by angularity and long sweeping lines.

The modern amalgam of both has essentially come to be the artist's own unique style. It runs in complete aesthetic harmony with the drawings, and allows the viewer to get a sense of the poetic atmosphere even if he/she makes little effort to actually read the text. Even if the viewer is non-too-poetic by nature, The enduring quality regarding this work is its ability to com-

vince. The artist stresses that there is absolutely no message she wishes to impart to the viewer, and is quite happy that her work be interpreted as "freely" and "individually" by the viewer as his/her sensibilities command. Yet the work remains convincing in the way it flows, together smoothly and harmoniously. But were it merely that — to the exclusion of other essential elements — it would register far less acclaim. However, smoothly-flowing and harmonious as it is, the work is impregnated with a certain vital provocativeness and, in some, surrealist discord. In the opinion of this writer, it pulsates with a less-than-mellow vivaciousness that verges on the anarchical. Yet it simultaneously emanates a dignified nomadic aura.

"I am particularly susceptible to Adonis' 'The Petra Tablets' poem due to the degree to which I identify and relate to his own susceptibility to the earlier elements in life: stone, sand, mud," says the artist, after a long pause. "Though I obviously could not have written the very words Adonis wrote here, I feel I come very close to experiencing similar sentiments regarding the actual philosophical content. The inspiration! Take for instance, the opening line to the poem: 'Say,

the stone is haunted by the eternal unseen.... Command the sky, put your hands on my shoulders.... O, Ocean, will you be the star that was thrown at me: the star that enlightened me?' — Can you see how I inevitably feel this surging sense of the mystical, eternally unfathomable? The first part of that phrase really acted as the key that 'opened up' all that followed in this series: 'Say, the stone is haunted by the eternal unseen....' That was the crucial inspirational key for me."

Irrespective of the affinity (or otherwise) that one may feel towards Mona Saudi's drawings, one cannot escape the live dynamism that permeates and emanates from many of her works. Moreover, one cannot escape the conclusion that this well-established artist is possessed of a substantially-articulated yet fresh philosophy.... and is as true to herself as most of us wish we could be. In confident modesty, she discloses that: "I do the work for myself, from 'within' myself, and then whoever wishes to contemplate it later may do so, perceiving it any way they like."

The exhibition opened at the artist's residence in Abdoun village on May 7, 1997 and will run till May 15, 1997. Please contact directly at 829700 for directions.



A drawing in Chinese ink by Mona Saudi

Daylight fever hits Albania's discos after crisis

By Belinda Goldsmith
Reporter

MARIKAI, Albania — It's the middle of the afternoon at the smoky Club Marikaj and the dance floor is heaving.

Despite the long queue at the bar, the disco's bar staff will be calling last orders at 6.30 p.m. and taxis are lined outside to rush the daylight revellers home.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed across Albania following widespread unrest has forced the Balkan country's disco dancers to reschedule their lives.

With about 300 twenty-somethings in leather mini-skirts and fashionable chunky platform shoes packing the disco, it is hard to believe the country was

on the verge of anarchy just weeks ago.

"All the discos closed down when the state of emergency was called (on March 2) so for us it is great to have them open again, even if it is only in the afternoons," 23-year-old Olta Daku told Reuters.

"But the atmosphere is nothing like the evening. It's nice to leave a disco and it's dark outside but now it's daylight."

Club Marikaj, perched on a hillside in a village about 20 kilometres outside the capital Tirana, is a favoured haunt for Albanian clubbers, open from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and preferred to the numerous venues in the city, some of which open at 10 a.m.

"At the Tirana clubs you never know who is coming

in. People come in with guns," said Olta.

Guns commonplace

Guns have become commonplace in Albania, Europe's poorest country where the monthly average wage is \$80.

Albanians angered by the loss of \$1.2 billion of savings in the fraudulent Pyramid funds looted military arsenals. Unofficial estimates say up to one million guns were distributed among the country's 3.4 million people.

Many of the more than 300 deaths reported since February have been caused by accidental or random shootings.

Disco Andi nestles among palm-trees along the picturesque beachfront overlooking the Adriatic Sea, near the port of Durres, 40 kilometres west from Tirana.

On the central dance floor, two women dressed in black with metal accessories are head-banging to a Scorpions number while half-empty tables of beer drinkers look on, bored.

"What can you do? I opened this place on Feb. 1 and by March the curfew was enforced," manager Julij Kapllani told Reuters.

"We're open every day now as a disco between 11 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. but not that many people come. But we'll stay open like this until the curfew ends. There really is no choice."

Organisers of Disco Studenti, in the basement of a pyramid shaped memorial built for former dictator Enver Hoxha in central Tirana, were also considering re-opening this week.

"We will open from 10 in the morning until 3 p.m.," said the janitor of the building.

Since the fall of communism in Albania in 1990 which ended 46 years of isolation and Stalinist rule, the Hoxha Memorial on the city's tree-lined boulevard, designed by the dictator's daughter, has become a playground for Albania's youth.

While teenagers-plus pop in the basement, their younger siblings use the marble, sloping walls of the pyramid as a slide, with years of use wearing a trough in the stone.

Restaurant trade hit the crisis and curfew have also hit restaurants.

The Klajdi Restaurant, on an old freight vessel that was salvaged six years ago, reports a dramatic drop in customers.

The ship, built in 1957 in Trieste in Italy, was bought by fisherman Skender Ismaili from the Albanian authorities in 1991 after it sank in Durres Harbour.

He salvaged the vessel and managed to get it towed to a nearby beach where it was dragged up the sand and is now firmly wedged.

"When the trouble started and people came to Durres trying to escape from Albania, a group tried to push the ship into the water, ordering me to take them to Italy," said Ismaili.

"It took some time to convince them it was not seaworthy. I had to show them it had no engine."

"But it has been a disaster for the restaurant. I have lost 100 per cent of my clientele."

Further down the beach, the manageress of an over-ground bunker that has been converted into a restaurant also laments the loss of trade.

The Fish Bunker Restaurant began life as one of 500,000 domed concrete shelters built on Hoxha's orders in the 1970s along Albania's 380 kilometres coastline, around towns and on almost every hilltop to be used as fortifications in case of attack.

The bunkers, with a slit on one side for shooting and an

entrance at the back, came in two sizes: The big ones that are occasionally used as homes or restaurants, and the smaller size, three metres across that weigh about 25 tonnes.

"This was the first bunker to be converted into a restaurant in 1995 and it was very popular," said the manageress of the Fish Bunker that is leased from the Albanian army. She preferred not to be named.

"But trade has gone down. There is nothing that can be done about that."

"During the troubles we stayed here and defended it from the people who were looting everywhere and we were successfully. Well, it is a bunker."

Cancer, heart disease cases set to explode globally

By Tami Freedman
Agence France Presse

GENEVA — Chronic diseases such as cancer and heart disease, leading killers in rich countries, will strike hundreds of millions of people in developing nations in an unfolding global epidemic, warns a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) report.

"The outlook is a crisis of suffering on a global scale," WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima said.

Some 24 million people die each year from chronic conditions, nearly half of the global total of deaths from all causes.

Circulatory diseases such as heart attacks kill 15.3 million people a year, cancer in all its forms 6.3 million people.

The WHO's 1997 World Health Report warns that cancer cases will double in developing countries, and jump by 40 per cent in richer ones with about 15 million people expected to develop cancer by 2020, compared with about 10 million people a year presently.

Although life expectancy has dramatically improved this century — to an average of 65 years in 1966 — increased longevity is a mixed blessing, and sometimes even a curse, as older people are typically more prone to diabetes, cancers and other chronic ailments.

Third world citizens, who have traditionally been more at risk from infectious diseases, are increasingly vulnerable to chronic diseases as well, creating what the WHO calls a "double burden" of suffering.

"Already, the outlook for most individuals in the developing world is that if they do manage to survive the killer infections of infancy, childhood and maturity, they will become exposed in later life to non-communicable diseases," the report says.

One key reason is that "people in poorer countries are now acquiring many of the unhealthy lifestyles and behaviours of the industrialised world: Sedentary occupations, inadequate physical activity, unsatisfactory diets, tobacco, alcohol and

Eight deadliest cancers listed

GENEVA (AFP) — The eight deadliest cancers, in terms of numbers of deaths per year according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), are as follows:

	Cases female	Cases male	Deaths total
— lung	330,000	990,000	989,000
— stomach	330,000	635,000	776,000
— colon-rectum	430,000	445,000	495,000
— liver	165,000	375,000	386,000
— breast	910,000	—	376,000
— oesophagus	160,000	320,000	358,000
— mouth	190,000	385,000	324,000
— cervix	525,000	—	247,000

— Lung cancer: Lung cancer is increasing in most countries with the exception of those where the epidemic first began, for example the United Kingdom and the United States. However, lung cancer kills more women in the United States than any other cancer form.

— Stomach cancer: Although the incidence rate has fallen in most industrialised countries during the last 30 years thanks to better nutrition, the disease is the second most common cancer worldwide.

— Colorectal cancer: Rarer in poorer countries, this cancer increases rapidly in the first generation of migrants moving from a low-risk country, such as Japan, to a high-

risk country, such as the United States. If diagnosed early, 90 per cent of patients survive at least five years.

— Liver cancer: Worldwide, men are twice as prone to developing this cancer as women. Some 83 per cent of all cases are attributable to infection from hepatitis B, and other cases to excessive alcohol consumption. Only about six per cent of victims survive more than five years.

— Breast cancer: More than half of all cases are in industrialised countries, but the disease is spreading worldwide. Risk factors include obesity after menopause, diet, hormonal and lifestyle.

— Oesophageal cancer: Smoking accounts for 45 per cent of cases in men worldwide, 11 per cent in women. About 75 per cent of patients die within a year of diagnosis.

— Mouth cancer: Tobacco and alcohol are the major culprits. If caught in the early stages, chances of survival range up to 80 per cent.

— Cervical cancer: Often the most common cancer among women in poorer countries. The sexually-transmitted human papilloma virus is found in more than 95 per cent of cases though this is probably not the sole factor causing the disease. A vaccine against the virus is being developed.

Eighty-eight per cent of cervical cancer cases are in developing countries as are two-thirds of all new cases of stomach cancer and 85 per cent of all cases of oesophageal cancer.

Liver cancer is a major problem in developing countries, with China alone accounting for 55 per cent of all cases.

Worldwide, the most ominous trends are in breast and lung cancer, which kill almost a million people a

year. As tobacco consumption is increasing in many developing countries, the lung cancer epidemic seems certain to grow, according to the report.

"Countries, particularly in the developing world, can no longer afford to deal with the two challenges of infectious and chronic diseases sequentially, as in the past," Mr. Nakajima said, adding: "They must address them simultaneously and the international community must help them to do so."

Developed countries, for their part, cannot ignore the dangers of infectious diseases, he said.

"In the battle for the health in the 21st century, infectious diseases and chronic diseases are twin enemies that have to be fought simultaneously on a global scale," Mr. Nakajima said.

While infectious diseases can be cured, and eventually, like polio, stamped out, chronic diseases that hit individuals are far trickier to combat.

Developing countries can expect to bear the brunt of the diabetes epidemic in the coming quarter of a century when the who expects the number of people suffering from the disorder to reach 300 million compared with 135 million today.

Similarly, the scourge of mental disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, whose incidence rises steeply in people over 60, will make further inroads in Africa, Asia and Latin America where there could be more than 80 million victims by 2025, the report says.

With such an enormity of health problems waiting to happen, the report calls for urgent action with priorities that include: The adoption of comprehensive chronic disease control packages tackling prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation; a global campaign to encourage healthy lifestyles, stressing diet, exercise and avoidance of smoking; quicker research into new drugs and vaccines; and alleviation of pain for those who cannot be cured.

New minute capsules offer better drug delivery

LONDON (IR) — U.S. researchers said they had developed an improved way to deliver drugs into the body using tiny cell-like bags.

The minute bags, which the researchers call "vesosomes," are based on technology that mimics cell structure. One expert said the method could be used to ensure better cancer treatment.

Natural cells are surrounded by a double layer of molecules known as lipids — the components of fat.

Scientists have tried to mimic the way the body works by using vesicles, tiny artificial cell-like structures which have a dual lipid layer that can keep material inside.

The idea is that the little bags can get through the cell membrane to deliver a

drug right where it is needed.

Joseph Zasadzinski and colleagues at the University of California, Santa Barbara said they found a way to make the vesicles roll up inside a larger membrane known as a cochleate cylinder in what they called a "simple" process.

This creates, in essence, a set of bags inside a bag. Such a vesosome could be used to carry several different drugs at once in a standard drip such as those used in cancer chemotherapy.

"The compartmentalised vesosomes could provide vehicles for multi-component or multi-functional drug delivery," Dr. Zasadzinski's group wrote in a report in the journal Nature.

They said the vesosome

could help make the system more permeable, or be used to make it more biocompatible with the body.

"Many of the recent advances in vesicle-based drug delivery can be incorporated into the vesosome structure," they wrote.

The process needed to be made more efficient, they added — it only worked in about five in 15 per cent of tries.

"This level is clearly good enough to show the general technique works, but probably not good enough to do economical drug delivery," they added.

Danil Lasic of Lipo-some Consultations in Newark, California said the technology could be important in treating cancer, for example, by better

targeting the toxic drugs used in fight tumours.

"Although the main goal was to decrease the leakage of encapsulated agents, their work is also an elegant way to encapsulate larger particles such as proteins or nucleic acids into liposomes — a major problem for many applications," Mr. Lasic wrote in a commentary on the work.

"Moreover, vesicles with different functionalities can be combined in this structure. The larger liposome might deliver a load of highly active, smaller liposomes, perhaps containing highly toxic drugs, to a specific site, thus sparing other tissues from any side-effects."

Report: people live longer but not always healthier

By Clare Nullis
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The number of deaths from cancer, heart attack, stroke and other chronic illnesses — now at 24 million per year — will increase as "diseases of the rich" spread around the world, a U.N. report says.

Thanks to medical progress, more people are living longer than ever, with life expectancy in developing countries averaging 64 years and reaching 80 years in some industrialised nations, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says.

But millions of people throw away the chance for a happy, healthy old age by not exercising and eating right.

"Longer life can be a penalty as well as a prize. A large part of the price to be paid is in the currency of chronic disease," WHO says in its World Health Report 1997.

Trying to improve the health of the elderly is of crucial economic importance, it says. In the next 25 years, the population over 65 is likely to grow by 82 per cent, compared to a 46 per cent increase in the working-age population and only 3 per cent in newborns.

The 160-page study, released for WHO's annual assembly, warns of a "double burden" of risks.

Air travel has spread the risk of infectious diseases once confined to the Third World, it says.

Still struggling with ailments linked to poverty, developing countries are paying the price for mimicking western lifestyles with an upsurge in diseases of the affluent.

Heart disease and stroke, which killed 13.3 million people last year and are the leading causes of death in many industrialised nations, are on the increase in poorer countries.

Key causes are tobacco use, alcohol abuse, lack of exercise and a diet high in animal fats and low in vegetables and cereals.

Cancer killed 6.3 million people in 1996 and there were 10 million new cases — not all fatal. This is expected to at least double in most countries in the next 25 years.

WHO concedes that this is partly due to the elimination of other fatal diseases, which increase the chances of getting cancer.

But it says much of the blame lies with diet and, above all, cigarettes. Smoking is on the increase throughout the developing world and accounts for one in seven cancer cases worldwide.

Tobacco-related deaths killed 3 million people in 1996. A lifetime smoker is 20-30 times more likely to die early than a non-smoker.

One of the most ominous trends is lung cancer, which killed 1 million people and afflicted 1.3 million more, says WHO.

Long the leading cancer killer among men in industrialised countries, it is now the top cause of cancer death among women in the United States. The number of female cases in the European Union is expected to increase by one third in less than 10 years.

WHO is also concerned about the increase in breast cancer, which killed 375,000 women in 1996. There are 900,000 new cases annually.

White and Hawaiian women in the United States are most vulnerable, while risks in developing countries are smaller but growing, it says.

The agency is unsure of the exact reasons for the rise. The main factor is age. Childless women or those who had children late, obese women; those who took oral contraceptives at an early age or estrogen replacement therapy at menopause are also believed to be at increased risk.

Cases of skin cancer are surging, especially in countries like Japan with previously low rates. Largely due to the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, skin cancer affected 115,000 people last year, mainly in Australasia, Europe and North America.

On a brighter note, who says huge strides are being made toward cancer prevention and cure. Already there are vaccines against hepatitis B, which causes liver cancer. A vaccine against the virus that leads to cervical cancer is on the horizon and there are hopes for one against a key virus in stomach cancers, it says.

Between 1995 and 2025, the number of people with diabetes will rise from 135 to 300 million, with a resulting increase in kidney failure and blindness, it says.

This is again due to a rise in obesity and sedentary lifestyles in developing countries.

Bone marrow transplants treat autoimmune disease

By Sarah Edmonds
Reuters

TORONTO — Canadian researchers believe they may have found that bone marrow transplants might be used to treat severe autoimmune disorders such as lupus or severe arthritis, a leading immunologist has said.

In a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA, a team at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children identified a new human immune disorder and successfully used bone marrow transplants to treat it, said Dr. Chaim Roifman, head of the hospital's Division of Immunology and Allergy, who led the study.

"The success of this treatment leads us to believe that bone marrow transplantation might be an option for other patients with debilitating autoimmune diseases, such as severe arthritis or colitis," Dr. Roifman told Reuters. "Bone marrow transplants until now were reserved for knowingly fatal diseases."

Autoimmune diseases — which cause the human immune system to attack the body's own tissues as though they were foreign invaders — can kill their victims but often take a long

time. "So people don't really consider it (for immune disorders) but some of them can be very debilitating," Dr. Roifman said.

A marrow transplant replaces the entire immune system.

The research team identified the as yet unnamed illness after examining the tissues of two families whose children, ranging from two to four years old, suffered from an undiagnosable disorder.

These patients suffered from a variety of illnesses that thwarted treatment — lung problems, bone and joint difficulties, stomach

problems and bowel ailments.

After bone marrow transplants, the children, now aged between six and eight, are completely healthy.

"If we look retrospectively, we have had many cases like that that ended up dying without a diagnosis," noted Dr. Roifman.

Researchers have long wrestled with the question of why the immune system turned on the body.

"Now we have a model of the mechanism, at least for this group of patients, but we think that it would reflect also the other more common diseases," Dr. Roifman said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

THE Sunday Crossword
Edited by Herb Etzenson

HEADY STUFF
By Frederick T. Buhler

ACROSS

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2. City on the Reno
3. Major producer
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Diagramless, 19x19
By Ron Johnson

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LAST WEEK'S CRYPTOGRAMS

1. Zebra eyed tall friendly giraffe in nearby cage and told it a chilling tale of the zoo.
2. When "Milkmaid" didn't work, mad magician began to weave loudly, making the dumb bunny in that silk hat.
3. Sign seen in very beautiful state park: "Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but your footprints."
4. Fear job of firing inept employee may end up being a dismal disaster.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. TDRE MANT MDE ZANTYKIZ FACE RE
CAICAMRAE, TE XEM REVAICSHRAE SQAQAZ
AU MORRI CSIPOREX QAZMRRAE.
2. COQUETA TCERTIGD SHWS KWEDIT BEIA
DPSAN SAEDRGN TEGGC BAN AFU SNBG IN
SWUPR AGO EWQC.
3. ABRCOD RABCSL ABCSDIE ABETST E
ABELD UT LUMSD ICABUL PS MUD ABCDS
ABERR, RE ABCD DPS COACBCDUE
ICADCT.
4. WCFE LADY KICK EB SCREL YE OAF SAD
SIE REP OEL RAY SCV.

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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ANSWERS

PUZZLES

(A) FIRST NAMES

1. JOHN. 2. RICHARD. 3. LOUIS. 4. LEONID.
5. SIGMUND. 6. PABLO. 7. NELSON. 8. ADOLF.

(B) 7
13
(top numbers increase by 2, 3, 4, 5; bottom numbers by twice that, i.e. 4, 6, 8, 10)

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Front.
2. Lydia, in Asia Minor.
3. To reduce in purity or value as by adding alloy.
4. One used as a kind of pass by slaves in escaping by the so-called underground railroad.
5. To detect possible loss of weight caused by scraping the edges.
6. Uncoined gold or silver.
7. Poland.
8. Red-headed woodpecker.

Memorial to Deir Yassin should 'force Israeli admission of the fact that Israel was established at the expense of the Palestinian people'

By Samira Kassar-Dawani

RAMI KHOURI'S commentary "The last memorial to atrocity in the Holy Land", (Jordan Times, April 22, 1997) raised some interesting and pertinent points. However, I feel that there is a pressing need to take those points a good deal further, because the massacre of 254 Palestinians in the village of Deir Yassin on April 9, 1948, by terrorists of the Irgun and Stern Zionist gangs not only continues to haunt the Palestinians as a symbol of their dispossession and dehumanisation. The massacre epitomises the entire experience of the Palestinian people as the Zionists went about the business of creating a Jewish state in the land of Palestine by ethnically cleansing it of as many of its Palestinian inhabitants as they possibly could.

The massacre of Deir Yassin was by no means the only atrocity committed by the Zionist terror gangs and the Hagana, which was the forerunner of the Israeli army, as they worked to expel as many Palestinians as possible from Palestine in order to ensure a Jewish majority in the state which they were creating. There were other massacres, such as the one perpetrated at Dawaymeb, in southern Palestine, to name but one other example. The port city of Jaffa was savagely and relentlessly shelled from Tel Aviv, following which the city's terrified inhabitants fled en masse.

The historian Michael Palumbo chronicles the ethnic cleansing of those parts of Palestine which fell under the control of the Zionist forces in 1948, in his book "The Palestinian Catastrophe". His account, based mostly on historical documents, makes chilling reading and is certainly corroborated by the evidence we heard from our parents and grandparents who experienced forced removal from their homes and then spent the remainder of their lives in exile, attempting to deal with their trauma as they built new lives for themselves and their children, sometimes in considerable hardship.

It is therefore grossly inaccurate to state, as Mr. Khouri does, that "the wholeness and reconstitution of Jewish national life in Israel coincided with the fragmentation and dispersal of the Palestinian community."

To begin with, the establishment of the state of Israel (referred to in Mr. Khouri's commentary as the reconstitution of Jewish national life) occurred in a part of the Arab World universally known and recognised as Palestine. Second, the establishment of Israel on land that made up more than 75 per cent of historical Palestine entailed the forcible expulsion of the majority of Palestine's Arab inhabitants, and it is hence completely illogical to consider the fragmentation and dispersal of the Palestinian community as simply "coinciding" with the establishment of the state of Israel.

Early Zionist slogans at the beginning of the twentieth century called on Jews around the world to work towards the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine, to which they referred as "a land without a people for a people without a land." Subsequent Zionist actions were aimed at transforming the myth of "a land without a people" into a reality, since simple common sense pointed to the impossibility of establishing a state for one people on another people's land without somehow causing the majority of the latter to disappear. The logic of that slogan has been at the very root of the Zionist ideology, both before the establishment of the state of Israel and ever since, and it has formed Israeli policies towards the Palestinians throughout the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Israel has insisted that the Palestinians recognise Israel's "right" to exist, in effect legitimising the process of their forcible expulsion from their homeland and the dissolution of their national identity. However, Israel has never reciprocated by expressly recognising the right of the Palestinians to exist as a sovereign, independent nation, nor has it repudiated

any of its founding ideology, which considered the Palestinians as non-existent.

denial of their right to sovereignty and statehood in word and deed.

As for plans to establish a

the aftermath of the Holocaust. Even today, the outpour of sympathy and guilt that the Jews enjoy in the

ferring such sympathy to the Jewish state and by attributing any criticism whatsoever of Israeli policies and actions to anti-semitism, irrespective of the fact that such criticisms are always a direct reaction to those policies and actions themselves.

However, the fear which many Western politicians, intellectuals and opinion makers have of being labelled anti-semitic is sufficient to keep them from voicing any serious or effective criticism of Israeli policies and actions towards the Palestinians. Such cynical exploitation of the legacy of the Holocaust by Israel and its supporters amounts to intellectual terrorism.

There is a second, equally powerful irony evoked by the fact that the proposed memorial to Deir Yassin will be within sight of the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial. It arises from the fact that had it not been for the inhuman, brutal slaughter and persecution of Europe's Jews by the Nazis, the earlier pogrom against the Jews in Poland and the anti-semitism suffered by the Jews in Europe at large, it is very doubtful indeed that the majority of European Jews would have seriously considered immigrating to Palestine, let alone doing so at the expense of its original inhabitants.

However, the horrors of the Holocaust were so

severe that they gave rise to a determination amongst many Jews to prevent such a tragedy from recurring, irrespective of the price that others would have to pay. Efforts to create a Jewish state in Palestine received a huge impetus as a result of the Holocaust, and the presence of the Palestinians on the very land where it was to be created became an irrelevance. The Holocaust also fostered a mentality of "might is right" amongst most European and American Jews.

The ethical and moral violations that were the inevitable outcome of implementing this post-Holocaust thinking were covered up with a series of untruths: The Palestinians never existed, so no one was ever displaced by the creation of the state of Israel. Once it became obvious that they did exist, Israel and its supporters argued that Palestinian and Arab leaders had called on the civilian population of Palestine during the upheavals of 1948 to leave their homes, although historical records have proven the opposite. The furthest that even the most progressive and liberal of Israelis will go towards admitting Israel's responsibility for ethnically cleansing large parts of Palestine in 1948 is to say that the Palestinians fled due to the fighting that accompanied the establishment of Israel.

It is therefore insufficient to simply build a memorial to the massacre of Deir Yassin. We must force what happened at Deir Yassin and in Palestine as a whole on the consciousness of the world and of Jews, both in Israel and abroad, with the aim of bringing about an explicit Israeli admission of the fact that Israel was established consciously and deliberately at the expense of the Palestinian people.

We must also reestablish the vital link, which Israel has skillfully managed to break, between what happened in 75 per cent of Palestine in 1948 and what is happening in the remaining 25 per cent of it (the West Bank and Gaza) today. Only thus will we be able to ensure that the current upheavals in Palestine are viewed and dealt with as a logical and natural continuation of the events of 1948. Without doing so, we cannot begin to reverse the process of the disappearance of Palestine, and "peace-making" there will simply be a way of legitimising the colonisation of the ever-diminishing parts of Palestine which have still not been swallowed up by Israel.

The writer is a Palestinian-Jordanian journalist and literary translator who lives and works in London. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

"Israel has insisted that the Palestinians recognise Israel's 'right' to exist, in effect legitimising the process of their forcible expulsion from their homeland and the dissolution of their national identity. However, Israel has never reciprocated by expressly recognising the right of the Palestinians to exist as a sovereign, independent nation, nor has it repudiated any of its founding ideology, which considered the Palestinians as non-existent."

That same Zionist ideology manifests itself today in the continuation of Israeli "settlement" activity in the West Bank — "settlement" being a term that conjures up images of enterprising immigrants coming across virgin, uninhabited lands on which they choose to build new homes. That same ideology underpins Israel's refusal to cede any powers or sovereignty to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and the West Bank, and its refusal to deal with the PNA as anything more than a local municipal authority that has the added responsibility of reigning in the angry Palestinian population as it resists Israel's methodical gobbling up of what remains of the West Bank.

Israel's current actions in the occupied Palestinian territories amount to the colonisation of the remnants of historical Palestine as Zionism reaches its logical conclusion. The grossly inequitable Israeli-Palestinian peace accords that have been concluded since 1993 and Israel's further watering-down of those accords has enabled it to get away with such colonisation under what appears to be legitimate political cover. Had the Israeli-Palestinian agreements been based on and inherently included the principle of equal, reciprocal recognition and resulted in the mutual, public and clear repudiation of past ideologies, they would not have been so heavily weighted against the Palestinians, nor would they have facilitated the continued colonisation of their land and the persistent

memorial to Deir Yassin within sight of the Yad Vashem memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, one cannot help being struck by the peculiar sense of historic irony that such a spectacle will create. Palestinian reluctance to commiserate with Israelis over the horrors of the Holocaust cannot be merely attributed to the victim's inability to sympathise with his oppressor's suffering. The Holocaust has also contributed to the plight and the suffering of the Palestinian people in at least two respects.

First, the world remained largely oblivious to the suffering and injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people by the creation of the state of Israel because of the overwhelming sympathy and feeling of guilt in the West towards the Jews in

West as a result of their terrible suffering at the hands of Nazi Germany serves to mitigate any atrocities that the Jews may commit against their own victims, be they Palestinian or Lebanese. The outrage generated by the death of any Israeli Jew as the result of Arab violence had never been matched by any similar revulsion towards Israel in the West, even when Israel was responsible for the deaths of vast numbers of faceless Palestinians and Lebanese, who are simply reduced to generic Arabs, the sum total of whose combined lives are worth one or two Jewish lives.

Israel and its supporters in the West have learned to skillfully and cynically manipulate the justified sympathy which the world has shown for the victims of the Holocaust by trans-

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King: We hope Jordan will get self-sufficiency in near future

(Continued from page 1)

cent, the average income of people of families living at the poverty line is JD140 a month and the rate of families living in abject poverty is estimated at 8.9 per cent."

She said: "The rate of poverty in Jordan in general is around 20 per cent of the total population and this is a relatively low figure compared to situations in other developing nations where such rate reaches 50 per cent of the population."

Dr. Khalaf said the strategy is designed to alleviate poverty and create jobs through a long-term plan and other short-term plans. The strategy tackles four areas: providing cash aid to the

poor, improving living conditions of poor people, financing small size projects and training citizens. Adding that this will entail dependence on four sources, the National Aid Fund, the construction of infrastructure, providing funds for small size projects and securing training.

To achieve this strategy entails among other things the restructuring of the National Aid Fund so that it can provide financing to the poor families project.

The strategy covers two areas that require assistance which are Palestinian refugee camps and unorganised urban areas. The camps' residents are estimated at 228,000 while the unorgan-

ised urban areas are inhabited by 34,000.

The estimated cost is JD431 million of which JD173 million will go to the camps, JD34 million for the unorganised urban areas, JD145 million for the local councils, JD33 million for infrastructural projects and JD16 million for conducting studies.

She said in the coming three years a sum of JD43 million will be spent on part of these projects.

She noted that the German government will grant Jordan in the next week JD20 million while the World Bank has expressed readiness to help Jordan carry out this strategy.

Tarawneh says no real water crisis between Jordan, Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Haddadin that Israel had given Jordan one-third of the 150 million cubic metres it had promised in the peace treaty, and that the remainder would come from desalination and a new dam.

"Israel wants to fulfil its peace agreement with Jordan, but we cannot come to an agreement under pressure," Mr. Sharon said "Israel cannot give up important interests in order to save a meeting," referring to the ceremony at Baqoura, where HRH Crown Prince Hassan was reported due to meet Mr. Netanyahu in order to inaugurate a park in memory of seven Israelis shot dead by a Jordanian soldier two months ago. His Royal Highness said in a statement to the press that Jordan did not cancel the ceremony, the

Israeli government did. In a statement related to the water issue, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Wednesday he was invited to visit Jordan to allay fears of a new crisis in relations between the two countries following the cancellation of a high-level meeting.

"I received an invitation to visit Jordan and probably will in a few days," Mr. Levy told Israel Radio.

Mr. Levy's spokesman said that the minister would not visit Jordan until he returned from a visit to Washington, expected next week.

Mr. Levy said postponement of the meeting which was due to be held on Tuesday between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Crown Prince Hassan had been blown out of proportion.

Prince Hassan pulled out of the meeting because of the

failure of talks Sunday and Monday to reach a bilateral agreement on sharing the sparse waters of the Jordan River as required under the 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty.

West Bank settlers set up sheds

(Continued from page 1)

was the second time in less than a week that Israeli troops clashed with settlers over unauthorised expansion projects.

On May 1, hundreds of police and settlers battled in Mizpeh Jericho outside the Palestinian town of Jericho as police removed two mobile homes set up illegally in the small community. Four settlers were arrested in the incident.

Kuwait faces challenge to reform state handouts, IMF says

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's economy has recovered well from the Iraqi invasion but the government still faces challenges including reforms to the welfare state, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.

"Kuwait has made an impressive recovery from the damage and disruption caused by the August 1990 invasion by Iraq," an IMF draft report was quoted as saying by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). "The reconstruction and rehabilitation effort has contributed to strong gross domestic product (GDP) growth, while inflation has been contained," said the IMF draft. Kuwait's GDP grew by eight per cent in 1995 to 7.952 billion dinars (\$26 billion) at current prices — not taking inflation into account — and a strong performance is expected in 1996. The draft said the government's five-year plan to 2000 "recognises the important structural challenges faced by Kuwait," it said. These challenges include eliminating the budget deficit by 2000, encouraging the private sector and addressing imbalances in the labour market, the draft said. "It involves reexamining the generous (facilities) the Kuwait government offers to its citizens" which will not be an easy task, it added. The gov-

ernment directly employs more than 90 per cent of the Kuwaiti workforce and offers generous state handouts including free health care and education, interest-free housing loans and heavy utility subsidies. The budget deficit for the financial year ending June 1997 was forecast at 1.21 billion dinars (\$4 billion), but economists say recent higher-than-expected oil prices could reduce the actual shortfall sharply. "However, with a comfortable foreign asset cushion and a successful strategy of diversification in the energy sector, Kuwait has a solid foundation to build on," the draft said. Kuwait overseas assets tumbled to an estimated \$35 billion from more than \$100 billion to pay for post-war reconstruction, but are now recovering and are estimated at more than \$40 billion. No official figures are published. The state-run oil sector is also expanding downstream oil industries, including building a \$2 billion petrochemical complex that is due to be completed in June.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait government is proposing a 4.37 billion dinar (\$14.38 billion) budget for fiscal 1997/98 (July-June) with a net deficit of 1.17 billion dinars (\$3.85 billion), official figures have showed.

The draft budget, obtained by Reuters, carries forecast

state salaries of 1.29 billion dinars but Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan told a seminar that in real terms wages and salaries account for half of Kuwait's budget. Oil revenue in the draft budget was put at 2.56 billion dinars, almost unchanged from the previous year, while non-oil revenue was unchanged at 645 million dinars.

Kuwait, which produces about two million barrels of oil a day, calculates oil revenue on a conservative average barrel price of \$13. Officials and economists have said the actual deficit for the current fiscal year was expected to be halved due to stronger than forecast world oil prices.

In addition to total expenditure, the draft budget has a 320 million dinar deposit in an overseas investment fund, making the gross projected deficit for next year 1.49 billion dinars.

The current 4.21 billion dinar budget carries a projected net deficit of 1.21 billion dinars and a gross deficit of 1.51 billion. By law, 10 per cent of total revenues is placed in the nest egg investment fund.

Mr. Rodhan told a seminar that although the state salaries section in the budget represented about a third of total expenditure "this does not portray a full comprehensive survey of the size of expenditure on

wages..."

He said taking into account other expenditures placed under another section of the budget, state salaries "reach almost half of total expenditure" in real terms.

More than 90 per cent of Kuwaitis in the workforce are employed by the state which offers them generous salaries and benefits unmatched by the private sector. Kuwait has a population of 710,000 Kuwaitis and 1.25 million foreigners, mainly Asian and Arab workers.

Minister Rodhan told the seminar that expenditure on state salaries "is an obstacle to efforts to confront the deficit by cutting expenditure...as they represent an obligation which is difficult to directly touch."

He said the controversial issue was also creating difficulties for economic reform efforts including a plan to privatise utility firms, used as employment centres for Kuwaitis who are accustomed to a cradle-to-grave welfare system.

But the Arab Gulf state, as part of a target to balance the budget by 2000 and the privatisation plan, hopes to employ less foreigners and encourage Kuwaitis to seek non-government jobs.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates											
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN	DM	DM
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7206	0.6112	1.4600	124.95	1.3813	1762.75	1.6360	8.8049		
DE Mark	0.5811	1.0000	0.3550	0.6482	72.59	0.8027	988.84	1.1248	3.3723		
GB Sterling	1.6361	2.8151	1.0000	2.3862	204.12	2.2599	2786.72	3.1885	9.5003		
CH Franc	0.6849	1.1780	0.4185	1.0000	85.55	0.9458	1165.47	1.3244	3.9730		
JP Yen	0.0080	0.1378	0.0038	0.0042	1.0000	1.1054	13.62	164.88	4.6436		
CA Dollar	0.7240	1.2493	0.4437	1.0603	1.11	1.2377	1549.49	1.4049	4.2163		
IT Lira	0.0004	0.0006	0.0002	0.0002	1364.44	0.8109	11.36	3.4084	2.9966		
NL Guilder	0.5165	0.8808	0.3154	0.7541	64.49	0.7134	878.58	1.136	3.4084		
FR Franc	0.1723	0.2964	0.1082	0.2545	21.50	0.2379	33.34	33.3400			

Middle Eastern Currencies											
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN	DM	DM
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7206	0.6112	1.4600	124.95	1.3813	1762.75	1.6360	8.8049		
Jordan Dinar	1.4126	2.4272	0.8324	1.9414	162.83	2.0827	2573.73	2.7774	7.8774		
GB Sterling	0.2668	0.4585	0.1600	0.3910	32.97	0.3610	440.36	0.4936	1.3836		
Bahrain Dinar	2.46	4.2151	1.5488	3.66	308.22	3.74	4602.55	5.0913			
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.4695	0.1603	0.3935	32.97	0.3610	440.36	0.4936	1.3836		
Kuwait Dinar	3.2004	5.4808	1.9403	4.5403	379.19	4.68	5803.67	6.4311			
Emirate Dinar	0.2724	0.4662	0.1597	0.3894	32.82	0.3594	438.17	0.4922			
Lebanese 1000	0.85	1.4600	0.5154	1.2345	103.75	1.1875	1468.88	1.6360	4.6436		
Egyptian	0.2850	0.4889	0.1712	0.4044	33.53	0.3734	454.06				

Energy		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN	DM	DM
Brent	18.25	18.10										
WTI	18.70	18.65										
Bony	18.25	18.10										
Dubai	17.81	17.70										
UL Gas	192.00	192.00										

Mid-East Currencies											
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN	DM	DM
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4585	0.1600	0.3910	32.97	0.3610	440.36	0.4936	1.3836		
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.4662	0.1597	0.3894	32.82	0.3594	438.17	0.4922			
KW Omer	3.2004	5.4808	1.9403	4.5403	379.19	4.68	5803.67	6.4311			
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.6462	0.2327	0.5647	47.17	0.5047	621.56				
CY Pound	1.3458	2.3493	0.8391	1.9414	162.83	2.0827	2573.73	2.7774	7.8774		

Metal Prices		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN	DM	DM
Gold (oz)	341.1	341.6										
Silver (oz)	4.75	4.77										
Platinum (oz)	371.75	372.75										
AL (3 Months)	1659	1662										
CU (3 Months)	2385	2372										
Zinc (3 Months)	1292	1294										
Lead (3 Months)	628	628										
Ni (3 Months)	7630	7650										

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)											
Currency	Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months	18 Months	24 Months	36 Months	48 Months	60 Months	72 Months
USD	5.50	5.50	5.54	5.59	5.65						
GBP	6.25	6.25	6.30	6.35	6.40						
JPY	0.53	0.53	0.54	0.55	0.56						
DEM	2.87	3.00	3.18	3.21	3.24						
FRF	3.24	3.35	3.46	3.47	3.49						
CHF	1.53	1.59	1.75	1.78	1.78						
ITL	6.88	6.77	6.56	6.50	6.43						

Main Equity Indices											
Index	Value	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Value	Change	High	Low
New York	DOW JONES	7165.52	-59.8	7224.32	7162.71	7224.32					
New York	S&P 500	823.86	-4.1	827.76	823.45	827.76					
London	FT-SE 100	4537.5	18.2	4562	4522.5	4519.3					
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	20048.9	-132.02	20277.3	19952.1	20180.9					
Paris	CAC 40	2843.31	-6.2	2866.22	2832.51	2851.93					
Frankfurt	DAX	3551.38	-16.3	3559.71	3543.85	3558.28					

Commodity		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN	DM	DM
Coffee (c/lb)	235.5	Spot										
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1427	Spot										
Sugar (\$/ton)	314.5	Spot										
Wheat (\$/ton)	176	Spot										
Soy (\$/cbs)	24.5	Spot										
Tea (\$/kg)	152	Spot										
Barley (\$/sh)	0	Spot										
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot										

JOD Cross Rates											
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN	DM	DM
US Dollar	0.708	0.710									
GB Sterling	1.1573	1.1631									
DE Mark	0.4098	0.4116									
CH Franc	0.4833	0.4857									
FR Franc	0.1215	0.1221									
JP Yen	0.5625	0.5653									
NL Guilder	0.3643	0.3661									
IT Lira	0.4139	0.416									

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1997

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A careless fellow associate could cause you a big set-back today and, although this may annoy you, you should find out the reason for this person's actions. Later this evening will be good for resting at home with loved ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a good day today to rely on the luck of the draw. Instead, stick with tried-and-true methods of operation. Go along with your mate's wishes later this evening and thereby you can gain the appreciation of this person.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Keep out should be exercised while in motion today, especially while driving on the highway. Don't make any unpleasant wisecracks at the expense of someone's feelings or you could be judged as a cruel person.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Much care should be exercised while in motion today, especially while driving on the highway. Don't make any unpleasant wisecracks at the expense of someone's feelings or you could be judged as a cruel person.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Curb your spending today, and try to save more money in case of an emergency. This is not a good time to begin any long-term projects which may need the assistance of a knowledgeable person who has a smart sense of humour.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You may feel as if you are "in a rut" today, however making any drastic changes would not be wise at this time. Don't be critical of your good friends or you could discover that they won't have anything to do with you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You should not lose your temper if your mate is going against your wishes, as there is probably a reason for this person's actions, so be more understanding towards his or her attitude and you can regain the harmony you desire.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Avoid a group of people where you feel disrespected may arise later this evening. You can rely on your intuition more than usual at this time to get you through any crisis which you encounter and get around.

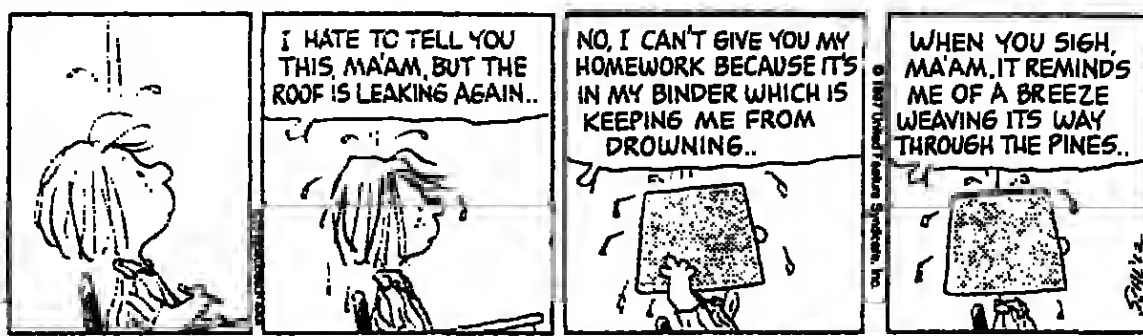
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Have more respect for authority today, and obey every rule and regulation which applies to you. Maintain a calm attitude at this time and you will be able to get through any crisis situation with flying colours.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new acquaintance is trying to make you disoriented today, so stop and think about you lot in life, you'll realise you are very lucky and have many close friends who support you and are quite caring towards your feelings.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Before you get into a disagreement over the amount of a bill today, check it carefully and be absolutely sure that it's not correct and you are the who is mistaken. Later this evening will be good to seek close friend for a fun visit.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be sure to keep you end of any agreement you have made today, or you could into some hot water which won't look good to fellow business associates and a bigwig who has your career activities in his or her hands.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Rosary pieces
- Ribs serving
- School period
- ego
- A Chaplin
- Bread spread
- Stevie Wonder hit
- Catch sight of
- "You — the Sunshine of My Life"
- Darken
- Different
- Besides
- Stevie Wonder hit
- Wept
- U.S. chemist
- Song refrain
- syllable
- Crew member
- Gambol
- Voucher
- Mother lode's load
- Achy
- Boots Are Made for Walkin'
- Stevie Wonder hit
- Coop occupants
- Author Hunter
- Worship
- Greek cross
- "Terrible" tear
- Stevie Wonder hit
- Chester —
- Arthur
- Lease
- War
- M. Gaty
- Cookie
- Mexican money
- Picnic pest
- Scrooge's exclamation
- it may concern
- Charles Lamb
- Tear
- Fashion
- Humorist Ogden
- Product of 11D
- Math abbr.
- Yorkshire river
- Knowing look
- Underground worker
- Madras money
- Additional
- "Exodus" author
- Have status
- Hew
- avis
- Mint
- With open —
- Egg
- Bedspread material
- Dutch painter
- Dam org.
- Cathedra
- Shed
- Contends
- 54 Hairdo
- Not near
- 56 NJ five
- Charity
- 58 — Magnon
- 51 Algerian seaport
- 58 Poetic adverb
- 60 Shirl bark

DOWN

- in the woods
- House extensions
- Optimistic
- Lanka
- Party
- Solitary
- STING
- TOOL
- AGTS
- ARNIE
- NOVA
- TRIO
- RISK
- LIFE
- AND
- LIVE
- ATEE
- DES
- TEASES
- HEAV
- HER
- EAST
- EMUS
- BARN
- FOP
- ASHER
- DAWN
- TORO
- SETTLE
- OLD
- SCORES
- ACHE
- HOSY
- HOTLY
- NTH
- EMMA
- PITH
- SE
- SLAVES
- IAN
- AMAH
- GIVES
- SHORT
- SHRIFT
- TIER
- ENOS
- OILER
- SINS
- DENY
- PALISY

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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Give your best effort to your daily activities today, no matter how mundane they seem. You would be wise to take better care of your health, thereby you won't miss and days of career activities which will get you recognition.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a good time today to have some decided successes in anything of a creative nature. Make sure your appearance is at it best, so that you can make a good impression upon a superior or who can make you successful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try to make your house more charming, comfortable and smooth-running today,

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Arab Life and Accident Insurance is distributing dividends at a rate of 10%

**** THE ARAB Life and Accident Insurance Company** is distributing cash dividends at a rate of 10 per cent following the approval of the general assembly which also approved the distribution of free shares, equivalent to 10 per cent of the capital, to raise the company's capital, from JD2.2 million to JD2.2 million, after the issuance of the new companies' law.

According to the annual report for 1996, the company earned a total of JD7.8 million from premiums compared to JD8.2 million in 1995. This decline resulted from the drop of the company's share of the third party insurance for vehicles due to the increase of the number of insurance companies in the market, the company's board Chairman Dirar Al Ghanem told the general assembly. However, he indicated, the decline reflected positively on the vehicles department. Overall, the technical results improved as the profit from the insurance operations increased from JD435,000 in 1995 to JD476,000 in 1996.

Mr. Ghanem commented on other sources of income by saying that the company obtained suitable earnings from its equity in sister companies in Lebanon and Yemen and that returns from investments in companies in Jordan amounted to JD272,000 in 1996 compared to JD370,000 in 1995. He clarified that despite the continued sluggishness at the Amman Financial Market, the market value of the company's portfolio of shares remained higher than the cost price and, as such, no allocation was taken for a drop in prices of the investment shares.

The chairman told the shareholders that the company plans to upgrade its computer systems and equipment in the future and noted that the company's regional branch in Ramallah has started operations.

On the financial side, the company's current assets stood at JD4.5 million at the end of last year (JD4.9 million in 1995) and total assets amounted to JD10.5 million compared to JD10.7 million in the preceding year (Al Dustour).

Arab rating firm evaluates standing of Jordan Hotels & Tourism Company

**** MAGHREB RATING**, a subsidiary of the Inter-Arab Rating Company, has assigned the following national ratings to Jordan Hotels and Tourism Co. Ltd.: Short-term rating A1 (Jor) and long-term rating A (Jor). Jordan Hotels and Tourism Co. Ltd. (JHTC) is the owner of the InterContinental Hotel in Amman, the longest established five star hotel in the city. The hotel is undergoing \$31 million rebuilding and refurbishment programme that will add 125 rooms to the 366 presently available, upgrade guest facilities and include a mall of up to 26 shops. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1998, although some new facilities such as a terrace, pool and health club are likely to be income-generating during 1997. The expansion is also something of a defensive measure to consolidate JHTC's position against the two existing five star hotels in Amman and also against two new entrants scheduled to begin operations at the end of the decade.

A key business risk is that JHTC's sole source of revenue is the hotel and any disruption in the hotel's operations may cause difficulties in servicing outstanding debt. In mitigation is the operating record of the hotel over the last 34 years, recognised by the signing of a new ten-year management contract with InterContinental Hotels Corporation in November 1996. The Jordanian hotel and tourism sector can suffer from heightening tensions within neighbouring states but around two thirds of JHTC's guests are business, diplomatic or official travellers which lessens its dependency on tourist groups.

JHTC is profitable and sufficiently cash generative to fund much of the capital expenditure from its own resources. Although debt levels are projected to rise, there should be little difficulty in servicing the financing costs even if occupancy levels decline.

The controlling shareholder for JHTC is Zara Investment (Holding) Co. Ltd, a private company based in Amman which also has investments in other tourist business. Until February 1995, JHTC was majority owned by the government but Zara acquired a 51 per cent holding as part of the privatisation process taking place in Jordan.

Phosphate company to get \$25 million syndicated loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) is to receive a \$25 million syndicated loan to partly finance the second production phase at Shidiyeh mines.

The loan will be lead managed by the Arab Bank in cooperation with the Housing Bank, the Jordan National Bank, the Cairo Amman Bank, Citibank, Grindlays Bank and the Jordanian Bank for Financing and Investment.

Through this loan, the JPMC hopes to boost its annual production of high grade phosphates from the Shidiyeh mines from 3.25 million tonnes to 7.5 million tonnes by the year 2000.

The Arab Bank lead managed a syndicated loan in 1995 worth JD 8.12 million and another loan for \$12.2 million to finance Nippon-Jordan Fertiliser Company's projects.

UAB figures show assets of 300 Arab commercial banks reaching \$595 billion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab banks performed better in 1996 as they benefited from an economic upturn in the region as a result of higher oil prices and reforms, bankers have said.

The banks in the 22-member Arab League made higher profits, provided more loans and boosted their assets, deposits and shareholder equities.

"There was an overall growth in the Arab banking sector in 1996 due to an economic upsurge, reforms in some members, higher oil prices and ongoing measures by regional governments to strengthen the banking system," said Adnan Al Hindi, secretary general of the Union of Arab Banks (UAB).

banking system," said

Adnan Al Hindi, secretary

general of the Union of

Arab Banks (UAB).

"We do not have precise

figures now on the net profits

for last year as they will

be available in late 1997.

But most of the banks

reported higher earnings,"

Dr. Hindi told AFP during a

visit to the United Arab

Emirates (UAE).

Figures obtained from the

Beirut-based UAB showed

the combined assets of the

nearly 300 Arab commercial

banks surged by around

20 per cent to \$595 billion

in 1996 from \$496 billion

in 1995 while loans and

advances climbed by nearly

17 per cent to \$297 billion

from \$254 billion.

Deposits jumped by 25

per cent to \$361 billion

from \$289 billion and

shareholder equities by 10

per cent to \$94 billion from

\$85.4 billion. The report

did not include profits for

1996 but they stood at

around \$4.6 billion in

1995.

Bankers said the increase

in shareholder equities,

which include capital and

reserves, was because several

regional banks had

raised their capital in line

with official instructions to

meet international adequacy

standards and prevent

fresh banking crises.

The measures, which

involve limits on credits

and a floor for capital, fol-

lowed guidelines by the

Bank of International Set-

tlement's Basel Committee

defining a floor of eight per

cent for capital adequacy,

the ratio between share-

holder equities and assets.

The guidelines were

intended to ensure banks

worldwide have enough

funds to face a financial

crisis.

Bankers said the best per-

formance in the Arab bank-

ing sector last year was

recorded in the Gulf Coop-

eration Council (GCC)

states — Saudi Arabia,

Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain,

Oman and the UAE.

"A large part of the

increase in the profits of

Arab banks came from

those in the GCC as many

of them made record profits,"

a Gulf banker said.

"This is because of a

surge in the construction,

trade and other sectors as a

result of higher government

spending and reforms in

some countries," he added.

A breakdown showed

Saudi Arabia, the world's

dominant oil power, had the

largest banking sector in the

region, with its bank assets

accounting for nearly 16

per cent of the total Arab

bank assets.

Bahrain and the UAE had

the largest number of

banks, totalling more than

100.

In recent press remarks,

Dr. Hindi urged Arab banks

to merge to create larger

units and face growing

competition from foreign

banks following the 1994

creation of the World Trade

Organisation.

"Mergers should not be

confined only to local

banks but to all Arab banks

across the border. This will

create large units capable of

meeting the domestic

financing needs and facing

competition from giant

world banks," he said.

Compensation for top U.S. chief executives rise 54 per cent

NEW YORK (AFP) — Com-

pensation for chief executives

of the largest U.S. corpora-

tions rose 54 per cent last

year to an average of \$5.78

million, or 209 times the

average pay for factory

workers, Business Week

Week reports.

In a survey of the top 365

American corporations, the

magazine said the rise in

chief executive compensation

— which includes salary, bonuses

and stock options — out-

stripped the 11 per cent

growth in corporate profits

and the 23 per cent rise in

stock prices for the Standard

and Poor's 500 firms.

Factory worker pay in 1996

rose a mere three per cent,

Business Week said.

The magazine said the use

of stock options — the right

to purchase company stock at

a specific price — has sent

pay for chief executives "out

of control."

"By relying heavily on

stock options, many com-

panies make exorbitant pay-

outs for so-so performances,

dilute real shareholder return,

and glorify the chief executives at

the expense of other employ-

ees," the magazine said.

"Even for the success sto-

ries, the gains of the chief

executives often exceed the

company's own strong year

proportionally," it added.

The most generous com-

pensation package went to

Lawrence Coss, chief execu-

tive of the real estate finance

group Green Tree Financial.

He earned \$102.4 million in

salary and bonuses.

Intel chief Andrew Grove

was second with \$97.5

million, of which \$94.5 million

was from stock options.

Third on the list was San-

ford, Weill of Travelers

Group, with \$94.1 million,

of which \$87.8 million came

from stock options.

The magazine said that if

compensation is compared

with the performance of the

company, Bill Gates of

Microsoft is the most under-

paid chief executive. Mr.

Gates received a total of \$1.4

million since 1994 despite a

310 per cent jump in the price

of Microsoft shares.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET												
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - STOCK EXCHANGE												
TELEPHONE: 01171 / 50719												
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 07/05/1997												
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH		PAST 12 MONTHS LOW		COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRAM.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
269,000	213,000	ARAB BANK	11.8	1.57	2	40	10210	255.00	255.50	.50	0.20	
2,100	1,680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8.0	0.00	8	22300	39515	1.75	1.79	.03	0.30	
3,680	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	10.8	0.00	3	900	2682	2.90	3.00	.10	0.10	
2,480	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.2	7.65	1	200	442	2.33	2.21	-.12	-0.10	
5,100	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.3	4.07	7	32850	156815	4.77	4.77	-	-	
2,950	2,440	JOR. INVESTMENT BANK	18.5	0.00	3	1110	2831	2.56	2.56	-	-	
1,070	800	JOR. CITY BANK	4.8	0.00	1	80	480	.80	.80	-	-	
4,050	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.5	3.37	3	1250	4430	3.54	3.56	.02	0.20	
2,850	1,000	REIT. AL-MAL (REITRA)	6	15.00	1	800	800	1.00	1.00	-	-	
1,440	1,000	PELLEGE, INV. BK.	6	0.00	5	3700	4137	1.09	1.12	.03	0.30	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 192.70	%CHG: +0.25	35	359260	1633885				
1,820	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.1	5.99	77	49517	81832	1.61	1.67	.06	0.60	
5,050	4,100	ARAB TEL. HOTELS	18.3	2.78	1	100	462	4.40	4.62	.22	0.20	
1,490	930	WATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	8	2250	2228	.99	.99	-	-	
2,200	1,370	MED. EAST HOTELS	19.2	0.00	15	1750	21296	1.20	1.20	-	-	
3,720	2,900	ARAB TEL. INV. EDUC.	7.9	0.00	2	1150	9453	3.00	3.02	.02	0.20	
1,220	960	ZAKA EDUCATION	0	0.00	2	1600	970	.97	.97	-	-	
2,230	1,640	UNIFIED CO.	7.7	6.75	9	3850	6279	1.64	1.63	-.01	-0.10	
1,200	700	UNION LAND DEV.	0	0.00	1	500	350	.70	.70	-	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 103.98	%CHG: +2.14	116	77717	122869				
3,800	3,060	JOR. CREDIT FACT.	25.3	2.93	23	4642	17408	3.74	3.75	.02	0.20	
3,500	2,710	JOR. PROGRESSIVE INDUS.	8.7	3.17	2	1000	3150	3.12	3.15	.03	0.30	
6,100	4,950	ARAB POTASH CO.	13.3	3.51	2	200	1140	5.70	5.70	-	-	
10,400	8,720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.0	9.55	9	429	3993	9.40	9.31	-.09	-0.90	
3,260	1,750	INDUSTRIAL CHEM. ACGR.	9	0.00	10	1783	3235	1.74	1.83	.09	0.90	
4,010	3,040	ARAB PHARM. IND.	5.8	5.62	18	6050	21420	3.48	3.56	.08	0.80	
7,250	5,650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.3	2.82	1	200	1420	6.95	7.10	.15	0.10	
2,100	1,450	JOR. PIPES MANUFACT.	17.9	5.56	1	250	360	1.45	1.44	-.01	-0.10	
1,760	1,050	WATL. INDUSTRIES	0.00	0.00	1	250	290	1.10	1.15	.05	0.50	
5,910	4,250	OMR ALDAMA PV. INV.	11.2	5.46	4	800	1647	4.50	4.58	.08	0.80	
1,500	960	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.8	0.00	4	3500	1785	.51	.51	-	-	
1,150	600	INTERMED. PETROL. CHEM.	10.00	0.00	7	1835	1635	.73	.73	-	-	
1,150	600	JOR. ROCKETSHIP INDUS.	10.00	0.00	1	1850	990	.60	.60	-	-	
3,090	2,150	UNIV. CHEMISTS	19.2	4.69	11	3000	6390	2.24	2.25	.01	0.10	
7,730	2,540	WATL. CHEM. WELD. SPAC	16.3	0.00	9	1200	3210	2.55	2.67	.12	0.10	
1,170	570	JOR. SULFUR-CHEM.	9	0.00	6	3750	2550	.70	.68	-.02	-0.20	
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	18.0	4.96	20	7050	9517	1.38	1.41	.03	0.30	
2,660	1,410	UNIV. MED. INDUS.	9	1.17	9	2200	3259	1.47	1.49	.02	0.20	
1,730	1,130	JOR. INDUS. CHEM. INDUS.	8	18.50	8	1750	1750	1.23	1.23	-	-	
1,650	1,300	WATL. CARBORINE	12.9	5.12	2	350	479	1.35	1.37	.02	0.20	
1,230	840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	8	1900	1553	.86	.87	.01	0.10	
1,330	1,000	WATL. TUBES	6	20.00	6	2000	2577	1.14	1.15	.01	0.10	
1,400	860	UNION CH. & VER.	28.8	0.00	10	3500	3171	.89	.91	.02	0.20	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 114.26	%CHG: +0.45	162	49704	95096				
GRAND TOTAL				INDEX: 150.76	%CHG: +0.43	313	486681	1851849				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 07/05/1997												
800	410	INCH. EXP. REPT. MAIN	9	0.00	1	200	98	.51	.49	-.02	-0.20	
570	370	CENTRAL CHEM. STORAGE	0	0.00	1	150	98	.98	.98	-	-	
790	440	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.2	0.00	13	18150	7677	.44	.42	-.02	-0.20	
840	660	UNION INV. SOC.	9	0.00	6	8000	2020	.66	.67	.01	0.10	
810	370	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	16	15718	6655	.44	.44	-	-	
950	620	AL-ORSHAYAH 751	14.2	0.00	1	1000	380	.64	.63	-.01	-0.10	
640	200	JOR. INDUS. MARINE-VERCO	9	0.00	1	2400	576	.24	.24	-	-	
740	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	4	1950	1084	.55	.55	-	-	
820	400	EAST. MEXICO-AMERICO	8	0.00	39	8100	2689	.82	.82	-	-	
970	720	JORDAN STEEL	2	0.00	3	2500	1800	.72	.72	-	-	
1,280	860	UNION TOBACCO 751	8	0.00	2	1500	945	.89	.88	-.01	-0.10	
770	550	WATL. FIBER. 551	8	0.00	2	950	247	.51	.51	-	-	
620	390	INDUS. ENG.	25.3	0.00	1	500	205	.42	.41	-.01	-0.10	
950	760	INDUS. CERAMIC	21.0	0.00	1	250	200	.80	.80	-	-	
760	560	WATL. CHEM. P. CONV.	9	0.00	7	877	879	.57	.57	-	-	
820	590	WATL. POULTRY	8	0.00	23	19500	26893	.68	.67	-.01	-0.10	
870	530	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.7	0.00	1	800	330	.66	.66	-	-	
GRAND TOTAL				INDEX: 121.1	%CHG: +0.45	121	144305	75955				
* P: Past 12 months low												
* L: Listed during the past 12 months												
* P/E: P/E ratio is 100 or more												
* -: Negative P/E												
* #: Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year												

1st Division Basketball Championship Jazireh meet Ahli hoping to secure title tonight

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Jazireh hope to win the first division basketball title Thursday evening ending the decades-long dominance of titleholders Al Orthodoxy and all-time rivals Al Ahli of one of the country's most prestigious sports titles.

If Al Jazireh win tonight they will automatically win the title regardless of the two remaining matches grouping Jazireh-Orthodoxy and Ahli-Orthodoxy.

Al Jazireh had defeated Al Ahli 85-57 in the first round and went on to beat Al Orthodoxy 62-54. They maintained their lead atop the standings when Al Orthodoxy lost to Al Ahli 70-66 in the first round.

After coming close to the title in the past two seasons Al Jazireh seem determined to clinch the title and their young lineup seem to have undoubtedly benefited from their participation in the Arab Clubs tournament in Tunisia last month.

Al Jazireh are unbeaten so far, and hope to continue their streak to score one of the major feats in the history of the game in the

Kingdom.

The results of the two remaining crucial matches will be significant in determining the winner only in case of Al Jazireh's loss Thursday. If two or more teams then tie in overall points a playoff will determine the eventual winner.

The other top two teams — Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy — hope Al Jazireh will lose Thursday to stay in contention.

Following their dismal showing against Al Jazireh in the first round, Al Ahli handed new Armenian coach Raffi Cholukyan the reigns taking over from Ghait Najar, the head coach for the past two seasons, during which the team was unable to reclaim the title and have been in a slumping form ever since.

With three of Jordan's top players — Naser Bushnaq, Yousef Zaghloul and Marwan Ma'touq — off the team Cholukyan, a former head coach of the Soviet Union's national teams, has the hard task of lifting the team's form and morale in trying to end Al Orthodoxy's current two-year reign.

Al Ahli were previously trained by Ukrainian Alexander Sacha who guided the team to a 1990 win ending Al Orthodoxy's 1976-1989 reign atop the Kingdom's basketball scene.

Al Ahli went on to win the crown in 1992, 93, 94 before Sacha left his post after apparent differences with the board.

Al Orthodoxy seemed inconsistent after their loss to Al Ahli but came back to score a big 90-32 win over last-placed Hussein in their only second round match. They were to face Al Jalil in

Irbid in Wednesday night's late match hoping the latter would show up after internal differences led to their withdrawal against Al Ahli. For the first time in years, Al Orthodoxy are not topping the overall standings but merely hoping to stay in contention for the prestigious title.

Al Hussein have not yet won a single match and lost to Al Jazireh 84-52 in their latest match.

With Al Yarmouk already relegated for withdrawing at the beginning of the competition, Al Hussein are playing with no serious goal in mind and no matter what their results they will keep their place in the prestigious group for the coming season.

The Ahli-Jazireh match will be held at 7:15 p.m. at the Sports Palace and will be televised live on JTV.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Jazireh	6	6	-	519	287	12
Ahli	6	5	1	388	300	11
Orthodoxy	5	3	2	390	284	8
Jalil	6	1	5	287	417	7
Hussein	7	-	7	309	605	7
*Yarmouk	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Relegated to 2nd Division

United wrap up title as Liverpool, Newcastle stumble

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United clinched their fourth Premiership title in five seasons on Tuesday as nearest rivals Liverpool lost at Wimbledon while Newcastle could only manage a goalless draw at West Ham.

Alex Ferguson's men had had to wait for confirmation of their latest success after Monday's 3-3 draw at Old Trafford against Middlesbrough. But their agonising wait finally came to an end as the red devils secured the League title for the 11th time in United's history.

Ferguson spoke of the "great pride" he felt at his side's latest triumph, which he described as "fantastic".

He said "I had a feeling it was two difficult games for Liverpool and Newcastle. West Ham are fighting for survival and you never get an easy game against Wimbledon."

Ferguson added that this year's success tasted even sweeter than the previous three, all obtained with him at the helm.

His rival managers were quick to add their praise, despite their own obvious disappointment.

"They're the best team with the best players and they have proved it with points," said Newcastle boss Kenny Dalglish, who denied United the title in 1995 when in charge at Blackburn.

"I just hope they have had a bit of champagne when they play us on Thursday. We've still got a chance of second



Liverpool forward Stan Collymore (L) jumps over Wimbledon's Brian McAllister during their F.A. Carling Premiership match (Reuters photo)

place and we will give it our best shot."

Liverpool coach Roy Evans echoed Dalglish's sentiments, saying: "They're worthy champions, they deserved to win it."

"We shot ourselves in the foot too often," Evans added ruefully.

That was the case once again Tuesday as the Merseysiders, four points adrift at start of play with two matches left, again found that Wimbledon have the Indian sign over them as the south Londoners extinguished their flickering title hopes.

Kenny Dalglish's Newcastle, on a roll in recent weeks, could themselves have stayed in the race had they beaten West Ham at Upton Park, but their gritty scoreless encounter left them seven points adrift with only two games remaining.

The Geordies now have a handle to oust Liverpool, and also Arsenal, from of second spot, which brings with it a place in the enlarged Champions League next season.

Liverpool are two points ahead of Arsenal with both sides having just one game left, while Newcastle are a

point further back with two to play going into their clash at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Wimbledon shocked Liverpool by taking the lead just two minutes before the break. Neil Ardley swung in a freekick from the left and 20-year-old Jason Euell nodded in for just the third goal of his career.

The youngster was making only his second league start of the season in the absence of the injured Efan Ekoku.

Midway through the second half, Ardley turned provider again, sighting the ball into the box for Dean Holdsworth to dispatch a powerful header down inside David James' left hand corner.

That left the visitors with a mountain to climb in the final quarter.

They dragged themselves halfway up, as Michael Owen, making his debut at the tender age of 17, pulled one back for the reds with a fine low shot on the run 16 minutes from time.

Steve McManaman came close to an equaliser with an effort which rolled across the goaline, before time ran out for Liverpool.

West Ham meanwhile are still not mathematically sure

of retaining their Premiership status next season as both Middlesbrough and Sunderland can just overhaul them by winning their final matches. However, Coventry can no longer catch them.

The hammers had their chances to take all three points against Newcastle, who were missing England pair Rob Lee with a calf strain and Les Ferdinand with groin trouble.

On one occasion early in the second half, United keeper Pavel Srnicek had to be alert in racing off his line to prevent John Hartson getting in on the end of former Magpie Paul Kitson's defence-splitting through-ball.

Hartson then appeared to have the winner on the tip of his right boot after gliding past Darren Peacock. But with only Srnicek to beat, he dragged the ball inches wide of the left-hand post.

That followed a spell of Newcastle pressure, during which Faustino Asprilla sent an overhead kick just over the crossbar.

The Colombian gave way shortly afterwards to northern Irish winger Keith Gillespie in a final Newcastle flourish.

Dortmund's Sousa critical of treatment by Juventus

ROME (R) — Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa feels his former club Juventus behaved in an "unforgivable" manner when they sold him to Borussia Dortmund of Germany last summer.

In an interview with the Italian sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport, Sousa had harsh words for Serie A leaders Juventus, the side Dortmund will meet in the Champions' Cup final May 28.

Sousa, 26, played for Juventus for two seasons, winning the 1995 Italian League title and the 1996 European Champions' Cup before being sold to Dortmund last summer.

At the time of his sale, Sousa was suffering from a persistent knee problem which subsequently required an operation.

In the interview, Sousa suggested Juventus sold him because they believed he would never fully recover from his knee injuries.

"If I had been one of them, one of the inner clan that pulls the strings in the club, then they would never have got rid of me. Instead, they made me fear that I might never play again," he said.

He said coach Marcello Lippi "and his advisors didn't believe that I would recover and listened to medical advice suggesting that I would never mend."

"I gave everything to the club, the coach, fans and team mates, even playing when I was in bits. From the professional viewpoint I can understand their choice. From the human viewpoint I cannot. What they did to me was unforgivable."

Sousa is by no means an automatic first choice at Dortmund but still hopes to be in the side for the champions' final at the end of the month.

"I'm not looking for revenge but this trophy is more important for Dortmund than for Juventus. And then, if I were to win two successive Champions' Cup medals with two different teams, that would be great," Sousa said.



Spain's Carlos Sainz in action in his Ford Escort during the last stage of the 41st Corsica Rally. Scotsman Colin McRae driving a Subaru Impreza won the rally ahead of Sainz having started the day in fourth place (Reuters photo)

Sainz takes lead in Tour of Corsica

AJACCIO, CORSICA (R) — Spaniard Carlos Sainz, driving a Ford Escort, seized the lead in the tour of Corsica Rally Wednesday but he was still under threat from Frenchman Francois Delecour with just four timed stages remaining.

Sainz, who started the final day of the event with exactly the same time as Delecour, lost one second on his rival's Peugeot 306 in the morning's first test, a

short sprint over 9.6 kms from Bellevalle to Marato in the mountains south of Ajaccio.

But in the next section, a 22.4-km drive from Ampaza to Moka, Sainz gained three seconds on the Frenchman to take first place.

Delecour was second overall two seconds behind with his Peugeot team mate and compatriot Gilles Panizzi third a further five

seconds back and also still in contention for victory.

Sainz seemed to have a slight advantage as the weather was sunny and the roads dry which allowed him to pick hard tyres and use the power and grip of his four-wheel drive escort to the full.

Delecour had hoped for rain, knowing that his lightweight, two-wheel drive Peugeot was more competitive on wet asphalt.

Bjorkman, Stoltenberg advance at red clay championship

CORAL SPRINGS (R) — Top seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and defending champion Jason Stoltenberg of Australia eased into the second round of America's red clay tennis championship Tuesday.

The 23rd-ranked Bjorkman needed only 64 minutes to send 141st-ranked Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina packing, 6-3 6-2.

The fourth-seeded Stoltenberg, coming off a runner-up showing last week in Atlanta, quickly dispatched Spaniard Emilio Sanchez 6-2 6-4.

"It's good to come here in good form to defend my title after reaching the finals and playing so well last week," Stoltenberg said.

"I didn't miss a ball for the first set and a half today."

I was hitting all the lines."

Sixth-seeded Swede Nicklas Kulti became the tournament's third seed to fall, joining opening night losers third seed Alex O'Brien and eighth seed Gilbert Schaller on the sidelines.

The 83rd-ranked Kulti was bounced by 196th-ranked qualifier Frederic Fontang of France 6-3 4-6 6-1.

After numerous complaints that the court was too slippery Monday, efforts to rectify the situation met with less than stellar reviews.

"I don't want to be negative, but I didn't like the court too much," Bjorkman said.

"It's not the best preparation for the French (open)."

It's too heavy and coming up with bad bounces. But it's the same situation for all the guys — we all hate it."

Bjorkman is off to his best season as a professional, having, claimed his first career title at Auckland in January and reaching semi-finals at Memphis, Scottsdale and Indian Wells.

In the first set, Bjorkman lost just five points in five service games and came up with the only service break he needed in the second game.

Bjorkman then won Zabaleta's first three service games in the second set.

"I've never seen the guy play before," Bjorkman said. "He hit the ball so hard he couldn't control the points. That gave me the win easier tonight."



World chess champion Garry Kasparov (L) watches as Joseph Hoane moves a piece on behalf of IBM super computer Deep Blue early in the third game of their six-game re-match in New York. The Russian Grandmaster won the first game and lost the second in the \$1.1 million match (Reuters photo)

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Bulls rally to beat Hawks, Jazz take Lakers

CHICAGO (R) — Scottie Pippen scored 29 points, including a three-pointer that snapped a tie with 47 seconds left, to lift the defending NBA champion Chicago Bulls to a 100-97 victory over the Atlanta Hawks in the opener of their Eastern Conference semifinal series Tuesday.

The Bulls overcame a 14-point deficit, the ejection of Dennis Rodman and a shocking lack of offense from Michael Jordan in the final quarter to remain unbeaten in the playoffs.

Jordan scored 20 of his 34 points in the pivotal third quarter as the bulls battled back from a 50-39 halftime deficit, but just one point in the fourth quarter.

Rodman was ejected — for the second time in four playoff games — with 5:57 left in the third quarter for slapping Hawks centre Dikembe Mutombo in the face.

"It just didn't seem like things were going to go our way, but third quarter we fought hard defensively and got ourselves back in the ball game and it was a dog-fight from that point in," Jordan said.

Mookie Blaylock had 31 points and 12 rebounds for the Hawks, who were coming off a tough five-game series with the Detroit Pistons. But he committed two key turnovers and missed a three-pointer in the last two minutes as Atlanta failed to execute down the stretch, going scoreless for the final 3:06.

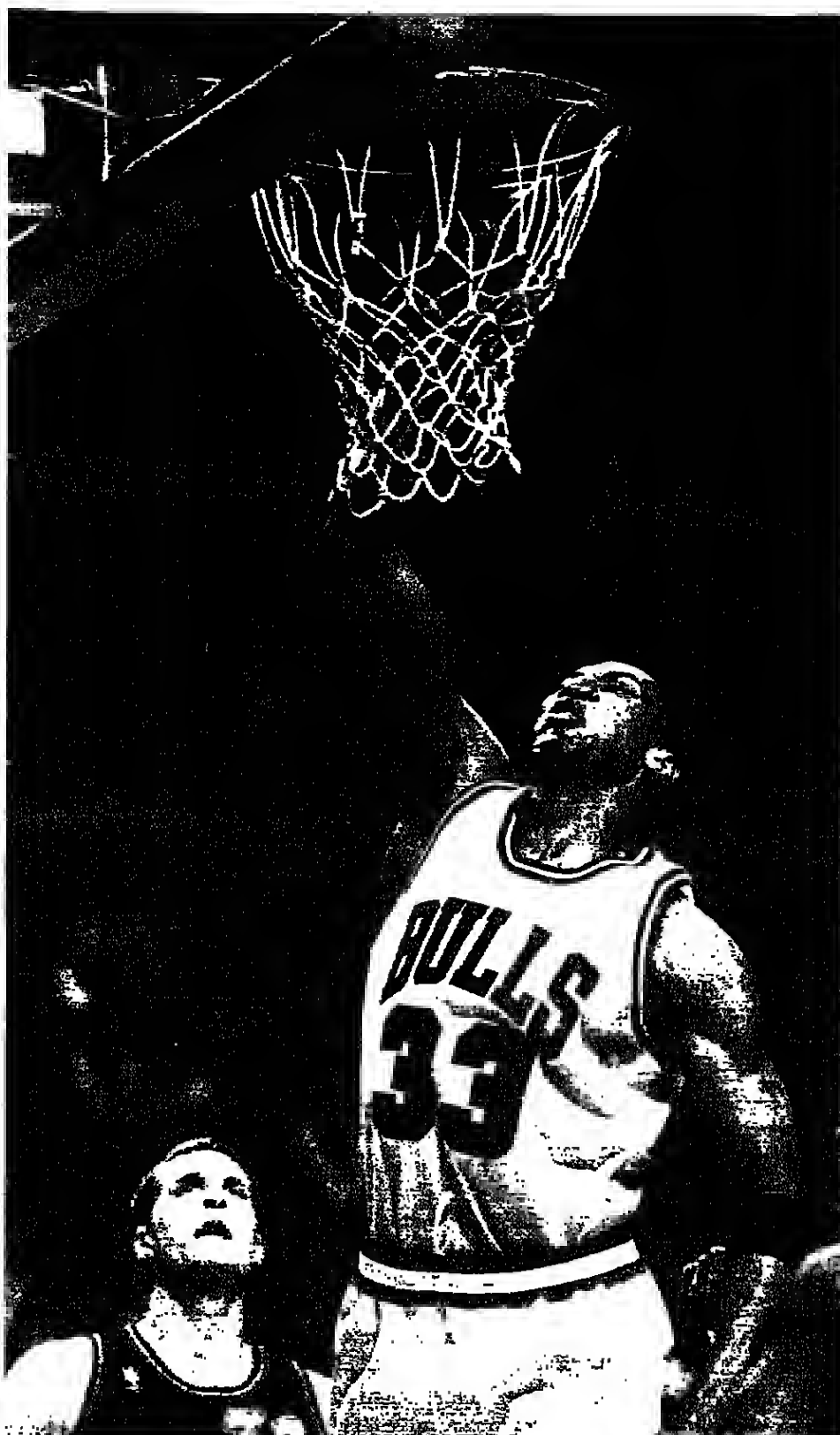
Pippen's three-pointer, his sixth of the game, came after a backcourt violation by Atlanta and snapped a 97-97 tie.

Chicago's Luc Longley missed two free throws with 33 seconds left, keeping the hawks within one basket. But Blaylock stepped on the sideline as he received an inbound pass for a costly turnover.

"The call on Mookie out of bounds wasn't a very good one," complained Hawks coach Lenny Wilkens. "He was clearly bumped by Jordan."

"I feel I should have been fouled," Blaylock said. "I feel they should have made that call."

After Jordan, amazingly, missed a layup, the Hawks had one last chance with 3.4



Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen (R) dunks in front of Atlanta Hawks' Christian Laettner in the first quarter of their NBA Eastern conference semifinals playoff game in Chicago. Chicago won the game, 100-97, as Pippen scored 29 points (Reuters photo)

seconds left, but Blaylock's three-point attempt from the corner was long.

Ron Harper scored 11 points and Jordan grabbed 11 rebounds for the Bulls. Steve Smith chipped in 19 points and Tyrone Corbin added 14 for Atlanta.

A Jordan dunk gave Chicago its first lead at 69-67 with 1:43 left in the third quarter. Three more baskets by Jordan extended the lead to seven points entering the fourth quarter as the Bulls outscored Atlanta 38-20 in the third quarter.

Chicago, which was coming off a lengthy layoff after sweeping the Washington Bullets in the first round, best game two on Thursday. "First game is always just feeling each other out... But we know we can play a better basketball game," Jordan said.

At Utah, Antoine Carr hit a pair of free throws with 2.1 seconds left to lift the Utah Jazz to a 103-101 vic-

tory over the Los Angeles Lakers and a two games to none lead in their Western Conference semifinal series.

The game was tied at 101-101 when Los Angeles' Shaquille O'Neal missed a short baseline jumper with 14 seconds remaining.

Utah's John Stockton then drove the lane and dished off to Carr inside for what would have been an easy layup if he was not fouled. Carr converted both free throws for his only points of the game.

"They tried the old high school move and tried to freeze me (with a time-out), but that don't work on me," said Carr.

Nick Van Exel caught the ensuing inbound pass and appeared to be slapped on the arm by Utah's Karl Malone as he attempted a long jumper at the buzzer, but no call was made.

Malone led Utah with 31 points and 11 rebounds.

"It was a big win for us," Malone said. "They were really unbelievable and came out with an awful lot of energy. 'We're going to have to raise our game a notch in L.A. They're going to come out and try to blow us away.'"

Jeff Hornacek had 21 points for the Jazz, who have won 16 straight at the Delta Centre.

"L.A. was unbelievable," Hornacek said. "They never quit, but we got a big break at the end."

O'Neal had 25 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers despite missing most of the third quarter due to foul trouble. Byron Scott had 24 points in 25 minutes off the bench for Los Angeles.

The Lakers were 11-of-18 from three-point range. Robert Horry was a perfect 7-of-7 from beyond the arc and finished with 21 points.

Game three is Thursday night in Los Angeles.

Wihdat meet Ramtha Friday in 1997 Cup Winners' Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's 1997 soccer season kicks off when Al Wihdat face Al Ramtha in the Cup Winners' Cup Friday afternoon followed by the start of the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield competition.

The Cup Winners' Cup groups the Premier League and Jordan Cup champions of the preceding year.

Since Al Wihdat won the 1996 Premier League and Jordan Cup titles, their opponents Friday will be Jordan Cup runners-up Al Ramtha.

Al Ramtha won the 1996 Shield and came third after Al Faisali in the League.

They will hope to win the match Friday to secure the first of the season's four titles.

L.G. Electronics are sponsoring the match providing trophies and medals as well as eight prizes for attending fans. Sponsorship also includes:

- J.D. 2000 to Al Wihdat
- J.D. 2000 to Al Ramtha
- J.D. 2000 to Al Hussein Youth City.

Also Friday the second of the season's competitions kicks off with the JSF matches.

Grouping the 10 Premier League teams, the two groups will play on a knockout basis.

Group 1: Qadissieh, Baqaa, Faisali, Ahli, and Ramtha.

Group 2: Hussein, Wihdat, Shabab Al Hussein, Jazireh, Karmel.

The Premier League is scheduled for June with ten teams taking part. The last two teams will be relegated to the First Division.

The Jordan Cup is scheduled for mid-August and will group 41 teams representing the Premier League as well as the First and Second Divisions.

The competition will be held on a knockout basis with most of the Premier League teams playing in the second round.

Other competitions have already begun including the first indoor competition grouping Premier League teams.

The First Division groups

14 teams with the top two moving to the Premier League and the last two relegated to the second division.

Cup Winners' Cup record

1981 — Faisali
1982 — Faisali
1983 — Ramtha
1984 — Jazireh
1985 — Jazireh
1986 — Faisali
1987 — Faisali
1988 — Wihdat
1989 — Ramtha
1990 — Wihdat
1991 — Faisali
1992 — Wihdat
1993 — Faisali
1994 — Faisali
1995 — Faisali
1996 — Faisali

Sydney Olympics bill reaches over \$4 billion

SYDNEY (R) — Sydney 2000 Olympic organisers announced Wednesday a budget of almost A\$2.3 billion (U.S.\$1.8 billion), bringing the total cost of preparing for and running the games to A\$5.2 billion.

The Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) released an operating budget of A\$2.289 billion but said it had guaranteed revenues of A\$2.331 billion, leaving an operating surplus of A\$42.7 million.

The New South Wales State government said in its budget on Tuesday the total cost of constructing facilities for the Games, including private sector initiatives, would be A\$3.2 billion.

SOCOG's budget includes an upfront payment of A\$370 million to the New South Wales government, bringing total construction and staging costs to A\$5.2 billion.

The new SOCOG budget is A\$690 million higher than the A\$1.6 billion estimated in 1992 and put to the International Olympic Committee in 1993 in Sydney's bid document.

The revised budget also marks the first time it has been possible to compile a total cost.

"Now we've got a games budget, this is the difference between planning and doing," SOCOG Michael Knight told a news conference.

Knight said possible future cost increases have been covered by the inclusion of a A\$163 million contingency fund in SOCOG's budget. The contingency figure is up from A\$96 million estimated in 1993, with unspent money to be included in SOCOG's surplus.

"We wanted to have a big cushion in case the unexpected happened," Knight said.

The IOC, which was to have received A\$2.3 million as its share of a surplus, will receive A\$12.7 million of the forecast A\$42.7 million surplus. New South Wales taxpayers would be given the rest.

The new figure for revenues is up \$700 million from 1993, due mainly to increased amounts for television rights, sponsorship and ticket sales.

The increase in expenditure comes from increased operational costs, including A\$240 million jump in the amount set aside for technology and administration.

A total cost has not been released for last year's privately-funded Atlanta Games. Atlanta organisers had a budget of U.S. \$1.7 billion and those games incurred relatively few construction costs compared to Sydney, where most venues are being built from scratch. (A\$1 = U.S.\$0.78)

Ripken's grand slam powers Orioles past Angels

BALTIMORE (R) — Cal Ripken hit his sixth career grand slam to cap a six-run seventh, and Scott Erickson went eight-plus innings to raise his record to 5-1 as the Baltimore Orioles rallied for an 8-4 victory over Anaheim Tuesday.

The Angels carried a 4-2 lead into the seventh but the Orioles sent nine hitters to the plate and scored six runs — five against starter Chuck Finley.

"Tonight I was able to come through with the bases loaded," said Ripken, who leads the Orioles with 28 RBIs. "The idea is to relax in that situation, stay within yourself. If you get jumpy, you're not going to

see the ball as well."

In Boston, Jose Rosado allowed five hits in 7-2/3 innings and Jay Bell's RBI single snapped a tie and capped a three-run fifth inning, leading the Kansas City Royals to a 7-2 victory and a two-game sweep over the Boston Red Sox.

In Cleveland, Julio Franco hit a three-run homer, and Orel Hershiser pitched seven strong innings as the Cleveland Indians defeated the Texas Rangers, 5-4.

Franco staked the Indians to a 3-0 start by booming off Rangers starter Roger Pavlik with one out in the first.

Hershiser (3-0) allowed two runs and seven hits.

Eric Plunk was tagged for two runs in the eighth but Mike Jackson got the final five outs for his third save.

In Milwaukee, Geronimo Berroa's bases-loaded single in the seventh inning snapped a 4-4 tie and lifted the Oakland Athletics past the Milwaukee Brewers, 6-5.

In New York, David Wells pitched an eight-inning shutout and the New York Yankees hit three home runs on the way to a 7-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

In Toronto, Joe Carter drew a bases-loaded walk from Dan Miceli with two out in the bottom of the 10th inning, giving the Toronto Blue Jays their fourth straight win, 2-1 over the Detroit Tigers.

In Chicago, Rich Amaral's two-run single in the top of the eighth inning capped a four-run comeback as the Seattle Mariners edged the Chicago White Sox, 7-6.

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GOREN BRIDGE

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WIN IN THE RIGHT HAND

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 8 7 6
♥ A 8 4
♦ Q J 10 6 7
♣ A 9 7 6
EAST
♠ J 10 8 4 2
♥ 7 6 4
♦ 9 8 7 2
♣ A 9 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 3
♥ K J 10 8 3
♦ K 6 3
♣ K 2

The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

10 10 40 Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

When you play a suit contract, count your losers. The total could guide you to the correct line of play. After West's takeout double, four hearts is clearly the right action by North. Responder's hand reveals to 12 points in support of hearts and partner will surely have play for 10 tricks, and the jump to game could shut out an opposing spade contract.

West led the queen of diamonds, and before playing to the first trick declarer surveyed the chances. There are three sure losers in the missing suit, as well as a slow loser in diamonds. By attacking that suit at the opening gun, the defenders are threatening to build the setting trick early.

Does it make any difference in which hand declarer wins the first trick? All the difference in the world!

To counter the defenders' thrust, declarer must plan to discard one of dummy's diamonds on a high spade. Therefore, declarer must make sure that there is access to the closed hand to enable the spade winner to be cashed. That can be done only if the king of diamonds is preserved to provide the necessary entry.

Declarer must win the first trick in dummy, and immediately lead a spade to the queen. East will capture with the ace and continue diamonds, but declarer is in charge. Declarer can discard a diamond on the king of spades, then ruff a diamond, lead a trump to the eight and, no matter what the defenders do, eventually ruff a spade in dummy to limit the losers to the three aces.



AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL

Amman Baccalaureate School Change of Telephone Numbers and Fax Number As from Saturday, 10th May 1997, the school's telephone numbers and fax number will change as follows.

New Telephone Numbers:

5411191/5411192/5411193/5411194/

5411572/5412781/5412906

New Fax Number 5412603



NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL

announces the following change of its telephone numbers effective 11 May 1997:

5517111, 5517112, 5517113, 5517114,

5517115, 5517116, 5519112, 5519113

Fax Number: 5516100

E-Mail address is library@go.com.jo

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Israeli probe into Barak's role in deadly accident continues

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A top Israeli official on Wednesday said she had "serious questions" about the role in a deadly army training accident five years ago of the man tipped to become opposition leader.

State comptroller Miriam Ben Porat said in an annual report into government activities that she would continue investigating former army Chief-of-Staff Ehud Barak's involvement in the 1992 accident that killed five soldiers.

Mr. Barak, who is expected to be elected as leader of the left-wing opposition Labour party on June 3, allegedly left the scene of the tragedy immediately after realising its severity.

"About how he acted after the incident, I have serious questions," Ms. Ben Porat said. "We're talking about the political future of a man, a man who could lead the country."

The five were killed during a training session for opera-

tions in South Lebanon when a missile apparently misfired.

Ms. Ben Porat said she had heard conflicting accounts from Mr. Barak and other witnesses but that Mr. Barak and the parents of the victims had asked her to investigate the matter fully.

Ms. Ben Porat said her annual report was the "most grave" of those she had issued documenting cases of politically-motivated government nominations and breaches of trust by civil servants.

Ms. Ben Porat recommended that the state attorney general open three criminal cases into government activity stretching back into the rule of the former Labour government that lost power in May last year.

According to the report, Labour nominations to legal and other positions were sometimes politically motivated.

The ruling Likud Party immediately began efforts to organise a parliamentary

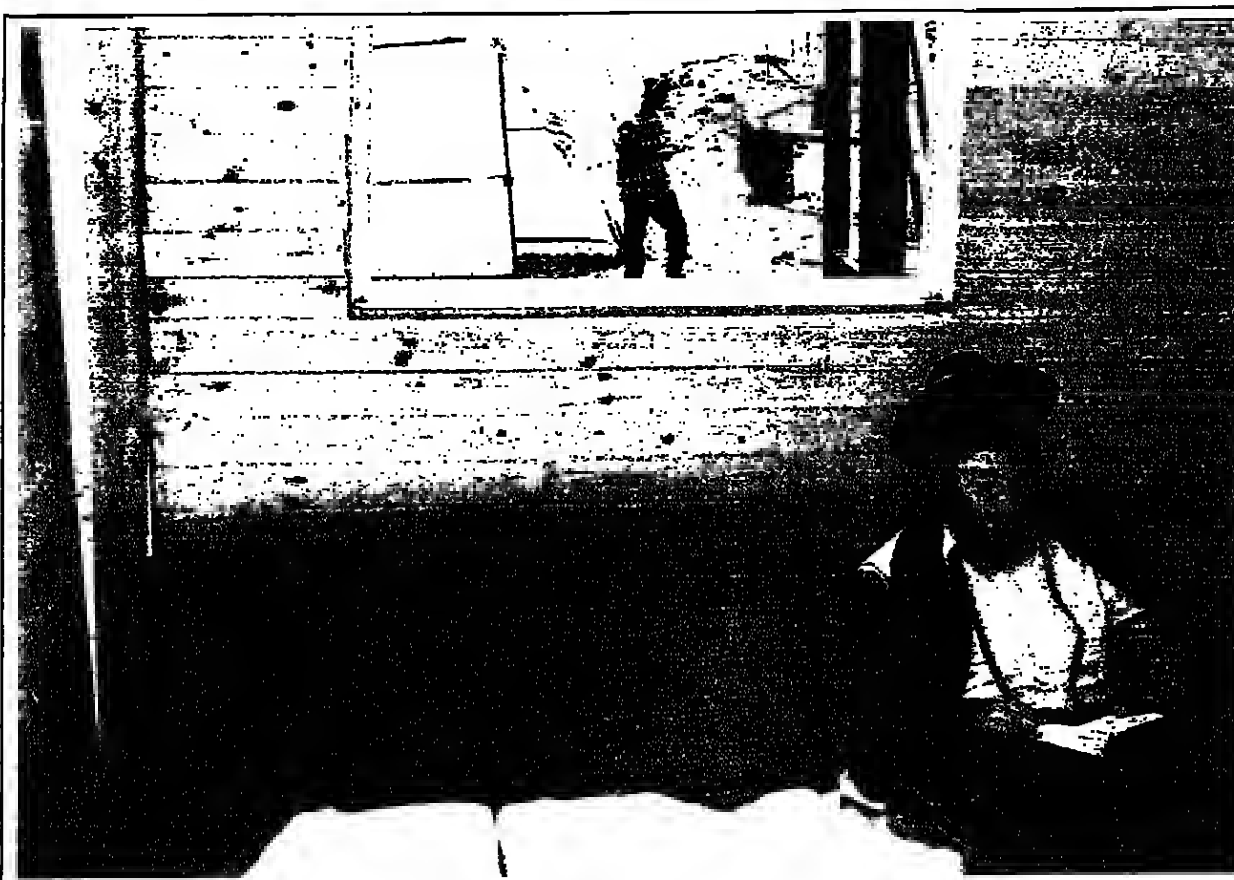
debate over the accusations against the former Labour government.

But the comptroller also criticised the Likud government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

According to the report, unnamed officials in Mr. Netanyahu's office oversaw the acceptance of funding proposals from organisations to which they belonged.

The justice ministry, which oversees such proposals, has already begun an investigation into the charges and the officials involved had promised to resign from the organisations. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi told reporters.

The report also lambasted Israel's defence establishment for not being sufficiently prepared in the event of war. Almost half Israeli citizens do not have gas masks as required, much ammunition is outdated and army vehicles are not sufficiently maintained for war, the report said.



SETTLER TROUBLE: An ultra-orthodox Jew sits and prays in a partially rebuilt wooden home where other settlers are working to rebuild the structure demolished by Israeli police, Wednesday. Right-wing members of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition have threatened to bolt if the demolition was indicative of Mr. Netanyahu's policies on Jewish settlements. Several children were injured and 18 settlers arrested when police stormed the home to evict the settlers barricaded inside the home before tearing it down on Tuesday (Reuters photo)



Horried British butcher makes money mincemeat

LONDON (R) — A British village butcher watched in horror as his day's takings turned into mincemeat. Barry Moore hid 840 sterling overnight in his shop moor in rural Devon only to return in the morning to see his 70-year-old father switching on the machine for business. "The mincer just chewed up the bills and cheques before he could turn it on," Mike Howard, who works in the shop, said Tuesday. The local post office swapped 540 sterling worth of bills or fresh ones. Because the village is so small, the shop simply asked customers for new cheques. Mr. Howard said.

Pilot at end of shift lands at wrong airpot

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot Air Force pilot with 153 years aboard landed at the wrong airport, rather than fly on an extra 10 minutes because it was the end of his shift, an airline spokesman said here. The Cyprus Airways spokesman said that pilot Heraclis Phoulis had stuck by union regulations to apply strictly the working hours laid down in an agreement with management. Phoulis, flying in from Zurich on Monday evening, landed at Paphos in eastern Cyprus rather than do the extra 150 kilometres to Larnaca in the south because his shift was at an end. The passengers were taken on by bus, said spokesman Tassos Angelis, adding that an inquiry had been opened because the union that Phoulis belonged calculated working hours differently than laid down in international standards.

Ayrton Senna's crash helmet sold for \$50,000

MONACO (AFP) — An Italian collector has paid 300,000 francs (nearly \$50,000) for the crash helmet worn by late Brazilian formula one champion racing driver Ayrton Senna in 1992. The sale Tuesday, organised by Brooks of Monaco, was part of events leading up to the Monaco Grand Prix Sunday. More than 500 objects linked to motor racing were on sale, including a steering wheel used by German driver Michael Schumacher. A Ferrari 250 GT fetched the auction's top price of 3.5 million francs and a Spider 225s model went for 2.6 million francs.

Heston represents American gun group

SEATTLE (AFP) — Actor Charlton Heston, playing the hero as dashing as in his movie days, has been elected first vice president of the U.S. National Rifle Association (NRA). Heston, a die-hard Republican who cuts a macho image, has starred in many films including "The Wild Bunch," "The Bridge on the River Kwai" and "The Ten Commandments". Brother Heston was Oliver North, the former Reagan administration White House aide.

U.N. grills Israel on human rights

GENEVA (AFP) — Israel was grilled here Wednesday by the U.N. committee against torture over its use of "physical pressure" against detainees which an Israeli official said had foiled 90 planned terrorist attacks during the past two years.

Israel asserted in a report in February that the use of torture was prohibited. However, it added that when dealing with dangerous terrorists a "moderate" degree of physical pressure to obtain crucial information was unavoidable during interrogation.

The methods in question, which are not disclosed by the Israeli security services, did not amount to "torture," although they were "unpleasant."

Nili Arad, director-general of the Israeli justice ministry and a member of a five-member Israeli delegation told the commission, the U.N. reported in a statement.

Non-governmental organisations allege that "pressure" tactics included shaking, continuous questioning over long periods of time, sleep deprivation,

tightening of handcuffs so that circulation to the hands was cut off, and refusal to allow toilet use.

One of the issues taken up by committee members Wednesday was how they could tell whether or not Israeli interrogation tactics constituted torture if they were kept secret.

Experts also asked whether "moderate physical force" could ever be justified during questioning of detainees.

Israel was obliged to issue the report on torture following the Israeli supreme court's cancellation in November of an interim injunction ordering its general security services to abstain from physical pressure during detainee interrogation.

Ms. Arad said that against a backdrop of rising terrorist attacks against Israel the country was presented with a dilemma. It was bound to protect lives and maintain an efficient investigative machinery to squelch terrorist attacks but also respect human rights.

Two ships suspected of violating U.N. embargo on Iraq — naval official

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Two merchant ships have been intercepted and are being held in the Gulf suspected of violating the United Nations embargo on Iraq by smuggling out fuel oil, a Canadian naval officer said Tuesday.

Qibus 2, a merchant offshore replenishment vessel, was intercepted sailing from Iraqi waters with 450 tonnes of fuel oil on Saturday, Canadian Commander Tyrone Pile told reporters.

A second vessel, a cargo dhow called Al Hamid, was intercepted on Sunday and was found to be carrying 25 tonnes of fuel oil from Iraq, Comm. Pile said aboard his frigate HMCS Regina docked in Kuwait's main port.

"They're both being held at anchor now" in the Gulf and are awaiting prosecution by one of the Gulf states suspected of contravening the U.N. embargo, Comm. Pile said.

Under an oil-for-food deal which came into effect in December, Iraq is allowed to export \$2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food and medicines, pay war reparations and fund U.N. costs inside Iraq.

But these exports are carefully monitored by the U.N., and all other exports are banned. Vessels leaving or entering Iraqi waters are questioned by the multi-national interception force in the Gulf.

The HMCS Regina is part of team that includes three American ships currently carrying out interception operations in the northern Gulf.

Commander Pile said his ship had intercepted more than 40 ships, boarded 16 and found two suspect sanctions violators since beginning a three-month tour in the Gulf in April.

He said the interception operations were monitored by Iranian fast patrol boats, which sometimes created tension because of the speed they approached but did not pose a threat.

"Quite often they (Iranian fast patrol craft) come out to look us, we look at them. They take video. Their aircraft will survey the forces in the north Arabian Gulf," Comm. Pile said.

He said that "sometimes they create a bit of a tension because they travel at very high speed and they come directly at the ship, until they slow down and turn away."

He said the Iranian craft had closed to within 1,000 metres, but usually slow down before that and were not threatening.

U.S. supports Turkey's EU acceptance

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. is strongly behind both Turkey's acceptance in the European Union (EU) and the EU's push towards a common currency, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said Tuesday.

Mr. Talbott reminded participants at a conference on U.S.-European relations here of the "strategic importance" of Turkey in relationship to Iraq, Iran and Syria, as well as its closeness to central Asia.

"We have as much an interest as ever in Turkey's development as a strong, prosperous, secular and democratic state fully integrated with our own community," he said.

Mr. Talbott said that friction between Turkey and Western states caused by problems of limited democracy, human rights abuses and territorial problems with Greece "do not make Turkey any less European."

"Turkey has been part of the European system since the 16th century," Mr. Talbott said. "Of course, it has cultural ties to central Asia and the Middle East. But so does Russia, which must also be part of the building of an integrated, post-cold war Europe. If there is to be such a thing."

Mr. Talbott also assured the audience that the United States was strongly behind the creation of a common European currency. A single currency "that centers an open single market and that sparks economic growth in Europe will be good for the American economy," he said.

Austrian politicians to maintain pressure on Iran over allegations

VIENNA (R) — Austrian opposition parties vowed on Wednesday to keep up pressure for an urgent inquiry into allegations that former ministers turned a blind eye to the escape of suspected Iranian assassins from Vienna in 1989.

Chancellor Viktor Klima's government has rejected calls for an independent probe into the release of three Iranians believed to be behind the murder of Kurdish dissident leader Abdul Rahman Qassemi and two other activists in Vienna eight years ago.

"There was no cooperation with state terrorism," Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schussel said in his statement to parliament during a five-hour debate here Tuesday.

Deputies of the ruling coalition parties, the Social Democrats and the Conservative People's

Party, hacked the government's position in a vote in parliament late on Tuesday. Opposition Liberals, Greens and the far-right accuse former ministers from the same two ruling parties of bowing to Iranian demands to let the assassins leave without any diplomatic fuss.

"We are not giving up. We're not going to stop the pressure," a spokesman for the opposition Liberal Forum said.

"It's an issue that needs clearing up urgently. I think the public knows that all is not right."

The Liberal Forum has demanded information from Mr. Schussel on the extent of contacts between Austria and Iran in the months after the murders and the release of the minutes of cabinet meetings at the time.

Pressure has been growing since April when a

German court linked the 1992 slaying of a group of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin with the Vienna murders. In a verdict that sparked a diplomatic row, it accused Tehran of ordering the Berlin killings.

Austrian media and some diplomats allege the government allowed one of the suspects to seek refuge in the Iranian embassy and even escorted a second suspect to Vienna's airport in an official motorcade. The third man disappeared without trace.

Warrants for the Iranians' arrest were only issued once they were outside Austria.

Civil servants at the foreign, interior and justice ministries are compiling reports on the case, which the government has promised to make public.

"We expect the reports from the justice and interior ministry on Monday."

go through them and if they are unsatisfactory we ask again for an inquiry," Green parliament member Rudi Anschober told Reuters. "We are not going to let this lie."

Mr. Anschober said there were signs that some deputies in Mr. Klima's Social Democrats were also concerned over the issue.

"There are more and more people in the Social Democrats who feel uneasy about this," he said.

The Greens say they have documents proving that an interior ministry official intervened to prevent arrest warrants being issued immediately.

"No one in the government intentionally protected murderers, covered up facts or abused human rights," from the justice and interior ministry on Monday.

Iran clears British diplomat

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has no evidence to implicate Britain's top diplomat in Tehran of spying as charged by an Iranian newspaper, the Islamic republic's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday was quoted as saying. "An informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry told Iran News yesterday that there was no evidence, documentary or otherwise, to implicate the British official," the English-language daily reported. Jeffrey James, charge d'affaires at the British embassy in Tehran, was accused by the newspaper Kayh on Monday of being a member of the British intelligence service MI-6. The headline quoted an unnamed French diplomat as saying its sister weekly Kayhan Havai in Paris that James belonged to MI-6.

